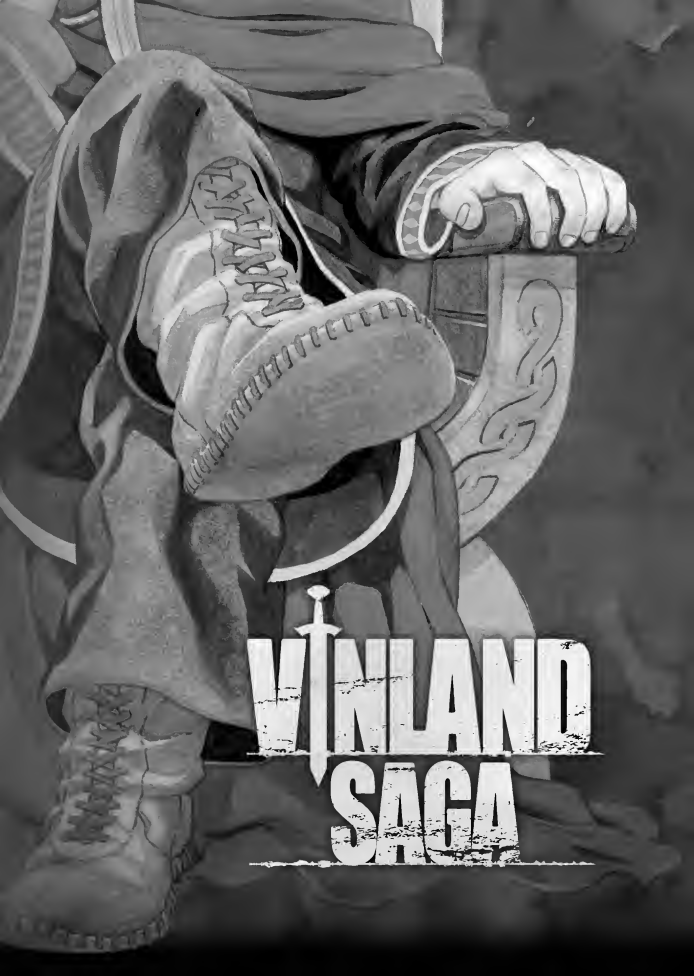


WINLAND SAGA



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WINLAND SAGA

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion.

As the world's population grows, the demand for food and other resources will increase. This will put pressure on the environment and on the world's food supply.

One way to meet this demand is to increase the amount of food that is produced. This can be done by using more land for agriculture, or by using more resources on the land that is already being used.

Another way to meet this demand is to reduce the amount of food that is wasted. This can be done by improving the way that food is stored and distributed, or by changing the way that people eat.

There are many ways to meet the world's growing demand for food and other resources. It is up to us to decide which way is the best.

One of the most important things we can do is to make sure that we are using resources in a sustainable way. This means that we are using resources in a way that will not harm the environment or the future generations.

There are many things we can do to make sure that we are using resources in a sustainable way. We can reduce the amount of waste that we produce, we can use less energy, and we can use less water.

By making these changes, we can help to make sure that the world's food and other resources will be available for everyone in the future.

It is our responsibility to make sure that we are using resources in a sustainable way. We must act now to make sure that the world's food and other resources will be available for everyone in the future.

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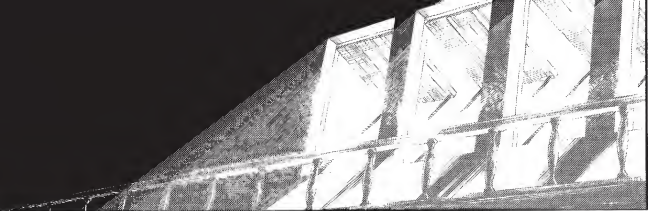
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HE'S
RETURNED
ALIVE.

I
SEE.

TAP TAP



YOU
MUST BE
PLEASED,
MAJESTY.



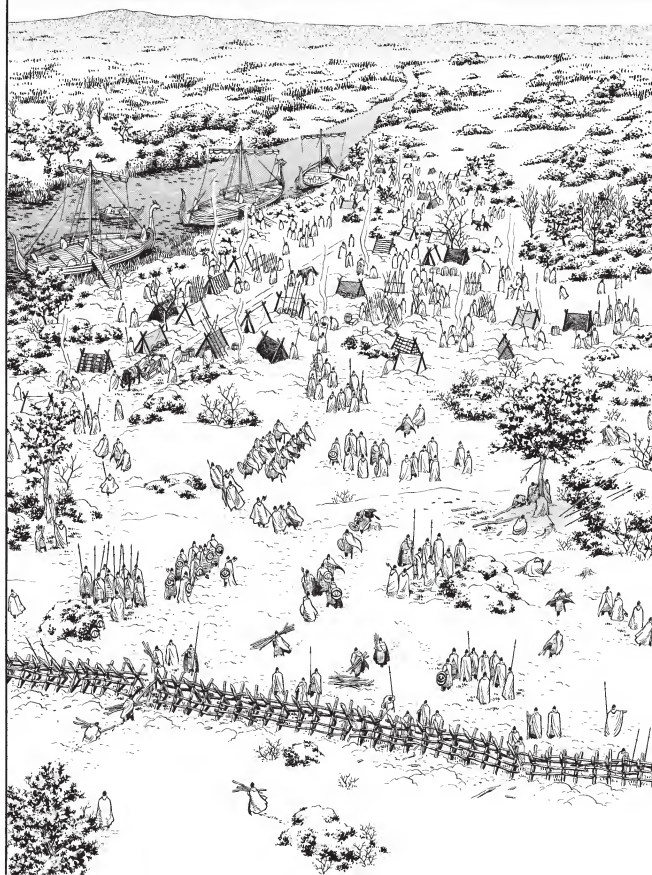
HE WILL
ARRIVE
IN TWO
DAYS.

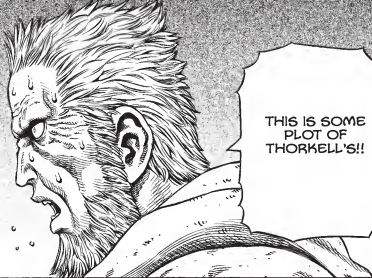
IN-
DEED!



...

CHAPTER 43: THE PRINCE RETURNS





I CAN THINK
OF NO OTHER
EXPLANATION!!

THIS IS SOME
PLOT OF
THORKELL'S!!



DO NOT LOOK
DOWN ON
THEM JUST
BECAUSE THEY
ARE ONLY FIVE
HUNDRED
MEN! THIS IS
THORKELL
WE'RE
DEALING
WITH!!

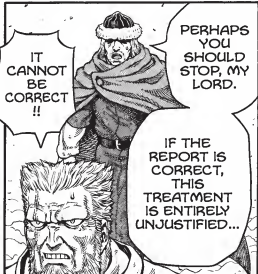
THE LEFT
FLANK IS
THIN!

B-BUT
MY LORD
FLOKI, THE
MESSENGER
FROM DERBY
SAID...



YOU
CANNOT
SERIOUSLY
BELIEVE
THAT
PRINCE
CANUTE...

...COULD
POSSIBLY
RETURN
ALIVE, WITH
THORKELL
AS HIS
FAITHFUL
SERVANT!!

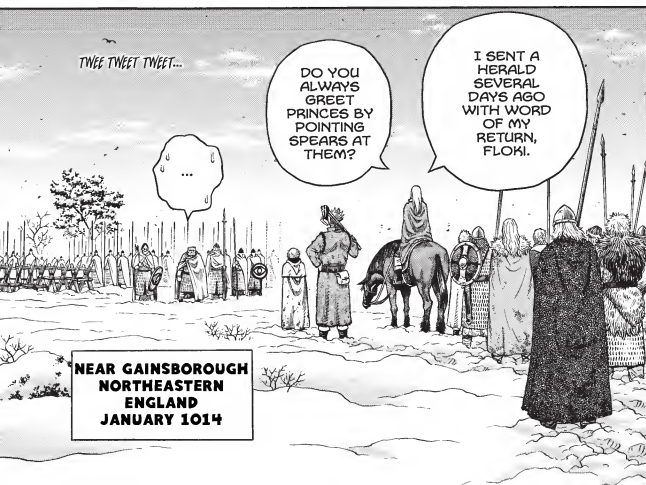
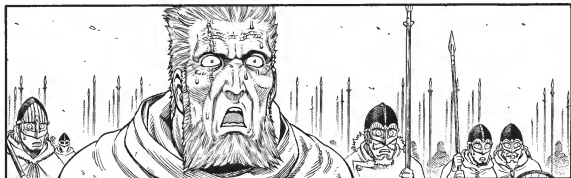
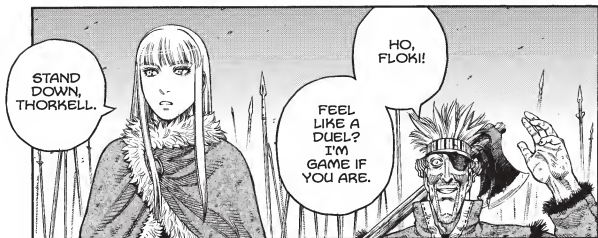


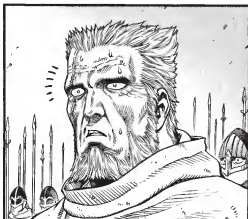
IT
CANNOT
BE
CORRECT
!!

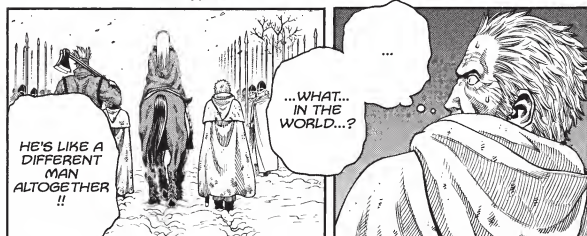
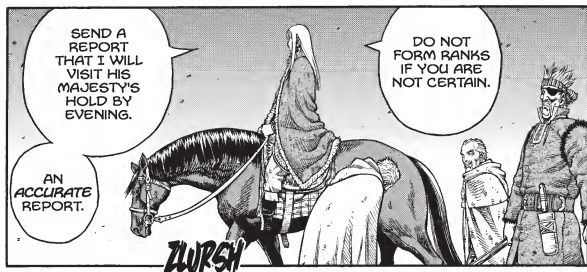
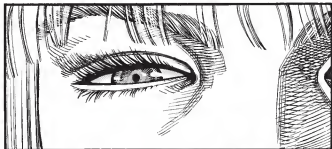
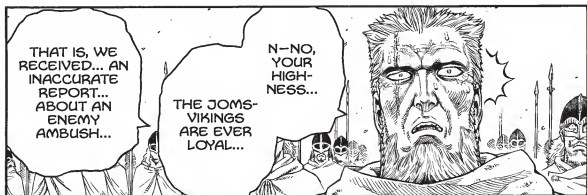
PERHAPS
YOU
SHOULD
STOP, MY
LORD.

IF THE
REPORT IS
CORRECT,
THIS
TREATMENT
IS ENTIRELY
UNJUSTIFIED...











**DANISH
OCCUPATION BASE
GAINSBOROUGH**



HRRG...

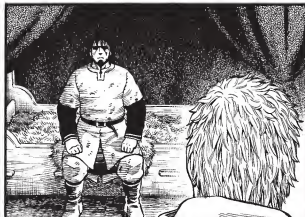
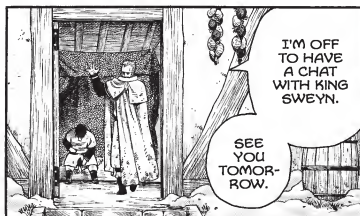
LURCH...

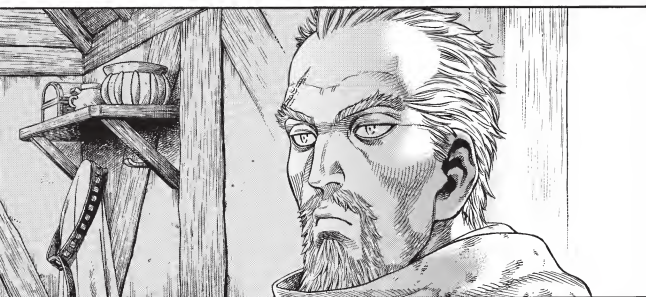


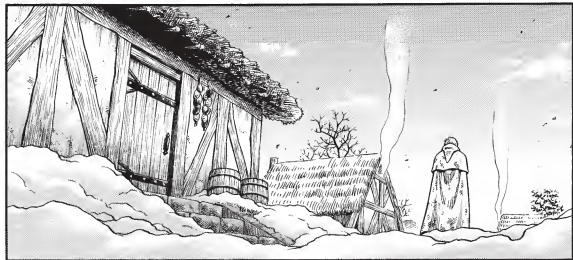
WATCH
THE DROP.

DON'T RUSH.
NICE AND
EASY,
NOW.











LISTEN
CLOSELY
WHILE WE
WALK.



I NEED
TIME TO
MAKE
ARRANGE-
MENTS.

WE MUST
NOT ACT
YET.

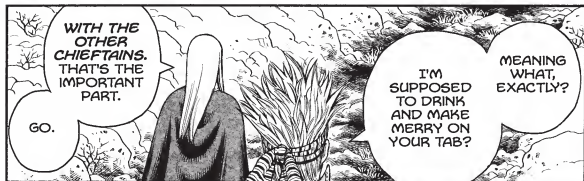
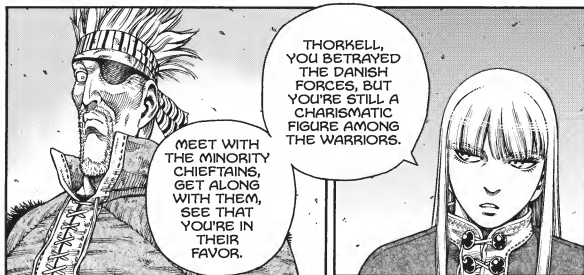
I HAVE
FEW ALLIES
AMONG THESE
SOLDIERS. IF
I CHALLENGE
THE KING,
I WILL BE
BRANDED A
REBEL.

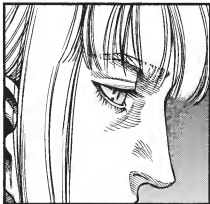
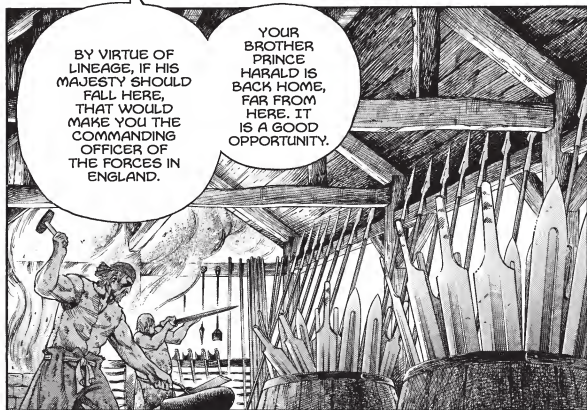
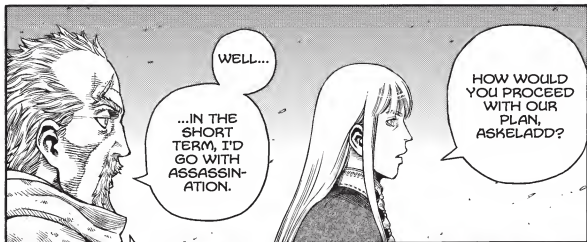


HERE,
EVERY
WALL
HAS
EARS.

IT'S
SAFER
THIS
WAY.

REALLY?
YOU'RE
GOING TO
TALK ABOUT
THIS OUT IN
THE OPEN?



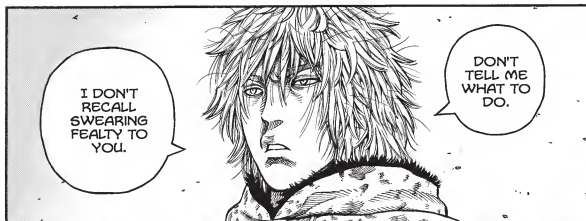
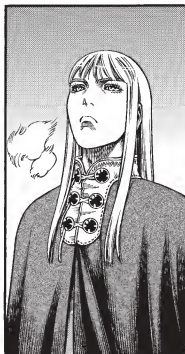




I MAY HAVE
TASKS FOR
YOU THAT
DO NOT
INVOLVE MY
PERSONAL
PROTECTION
SOON.

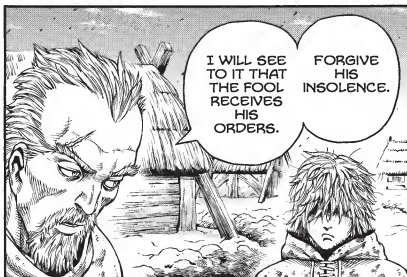
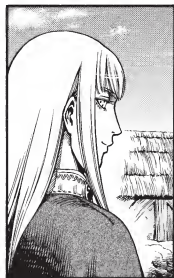
BE
PRE-
PARED.

THORFINN.



I DON'T
RECALL
SWEARING
FEALTY TO
YOU.

DON'T
TELL ME
WHAT TO
DO.



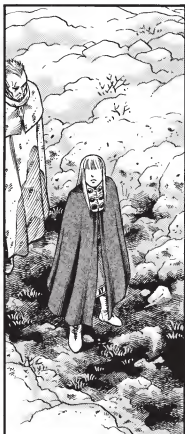
I WILL SEE
TO IT THAT
THE FOOL
RECEIVES
HIS
ORDERS.

FORGIVE
HIS
INSOLENCE.



...I
SUPPOSE...

...GOD IS
WATCHING
FROM
ABOVE,
EVEN
NOW...



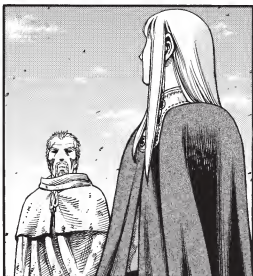
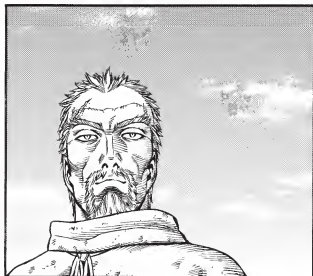
AND HE
CHOOSES
TO SIT ON
HIS THRONE
AND WATCH
IT ALL
HAPPEN.

WE LOSE
OUR
FRIENDS...

...AND
FATHER
AND SON
KILL ONE
ANOTHER.



IT IS
UNFOR-
GIVABLE.



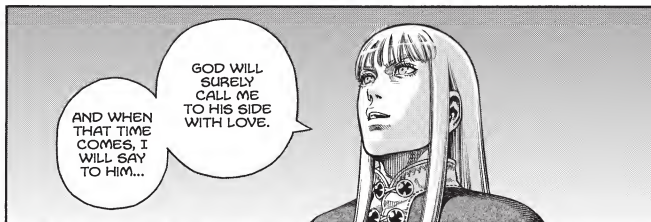


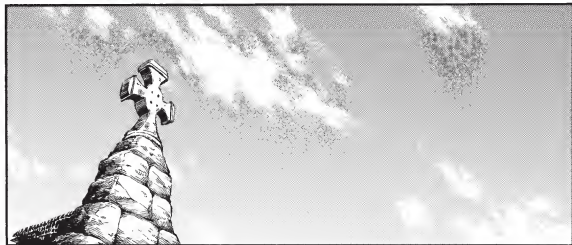
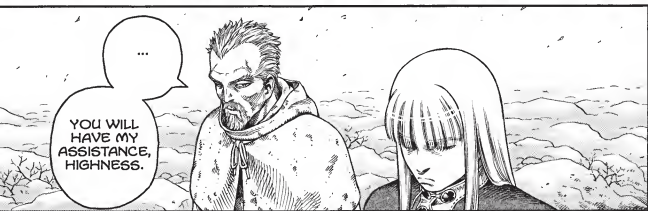
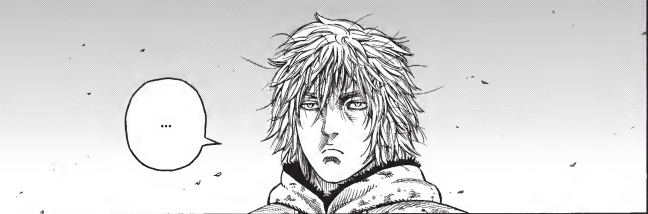
I WILL
CREATE A
WORLDLY
PARADISE
IN THIS
LAND.

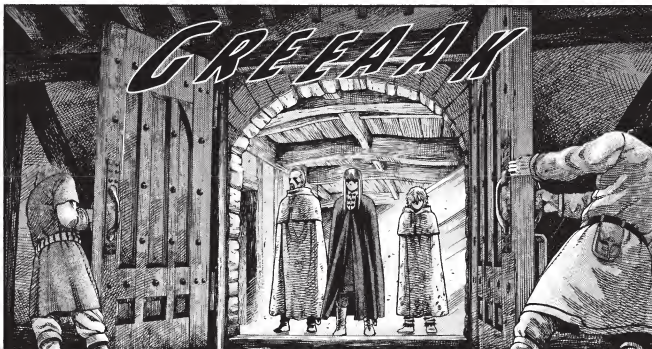
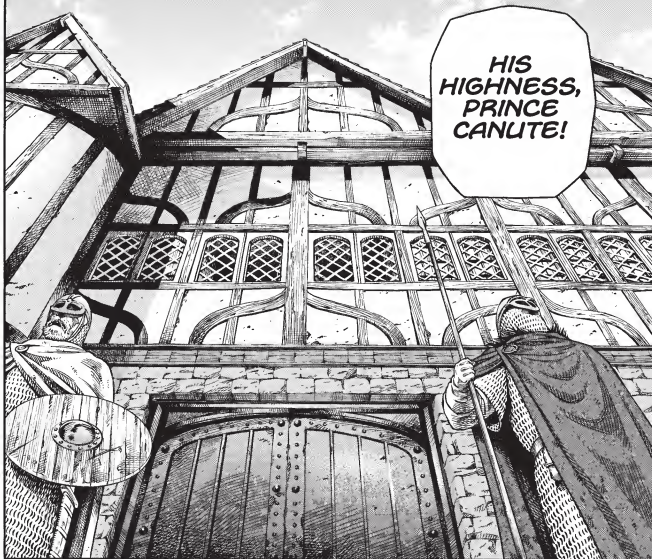
...AND
PROSPER-
ITY.

A PLACE
OF
PEACE...

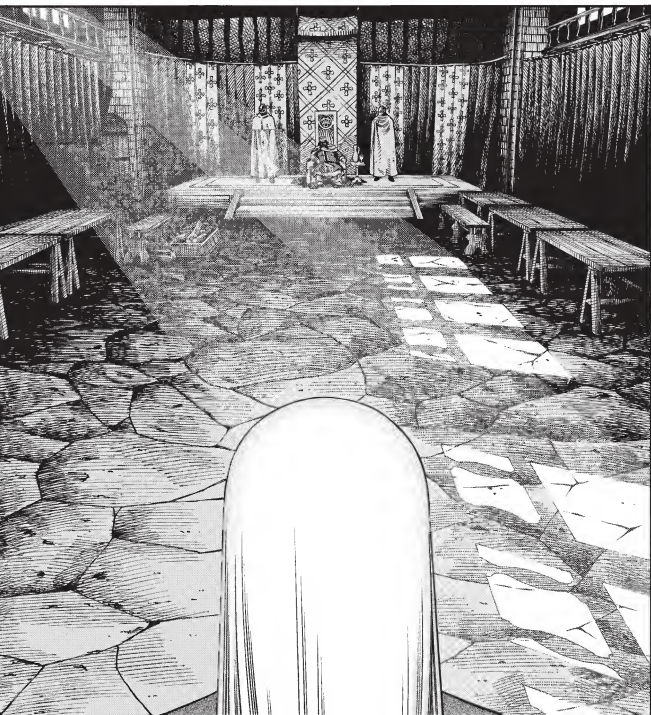
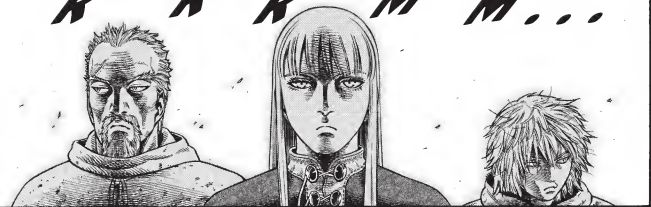
AN IDEAL
COUNTRY
FOR THOSE
WHO LIVE IN
SUFFERING...







R R R M M...





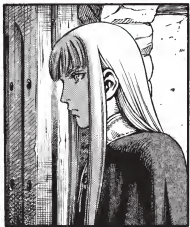
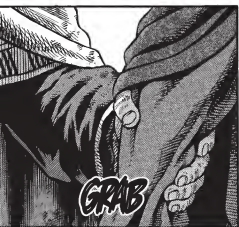
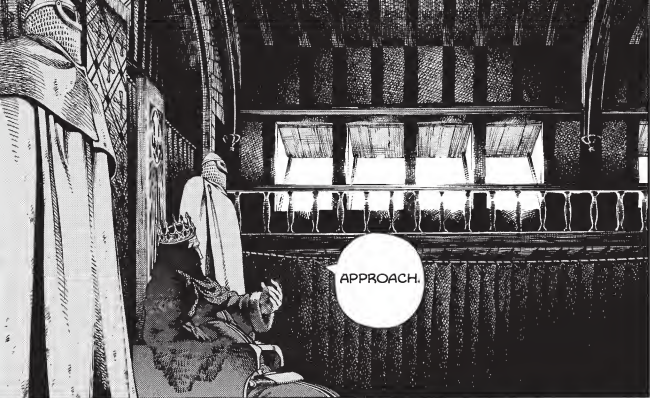
SO YOU
HAVE
RETURNED,
CANUTE.

I AM
PLEASED.



THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
KIND
WORDS,
MAJESTY.

I'M AFRAID
I AM
UNWORTHY
OF THEM, AS
I HAVE LOST
THE ENTIRE
CONTINGENT
OF MEN YOU
GRANTED ME.





WHAT DO YOU THINK, THORFINN?

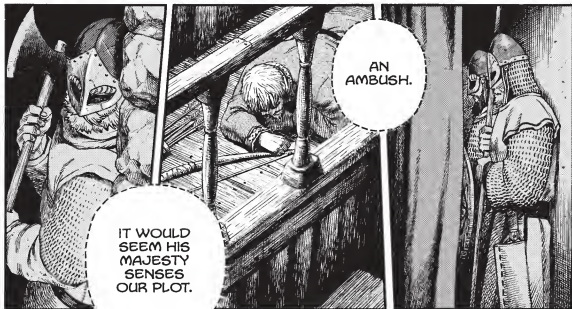
YEAH.

THEY'RE THERE.



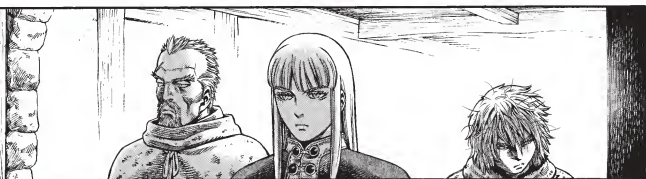
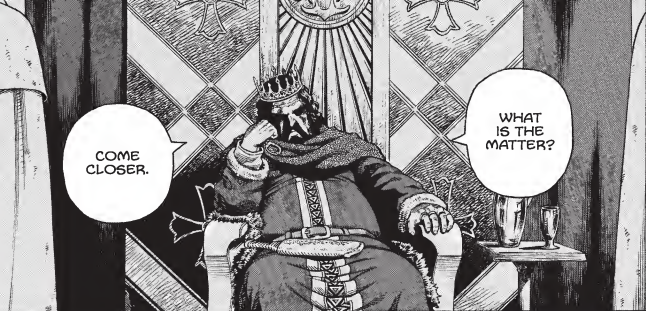
ABOVE US, TOO. ARCHERS.

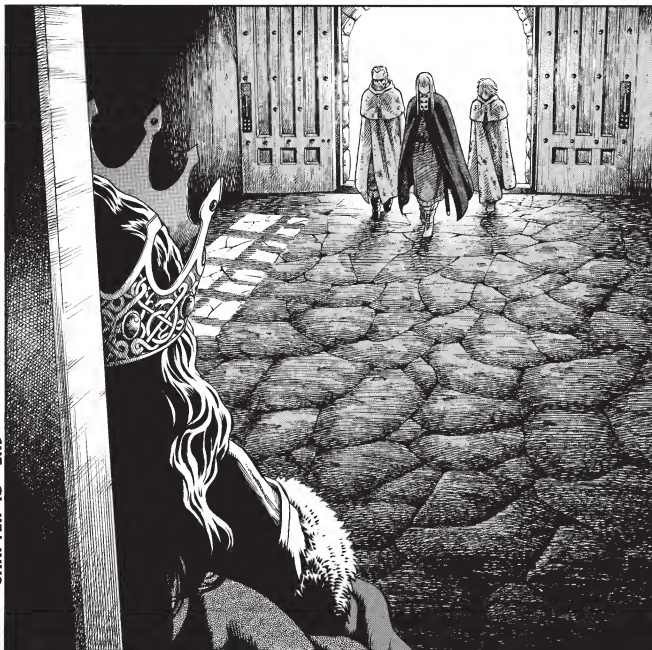
TWENTY, I'D SAY.



AN AMBUSH.

IT WOULD SEEM HIS MAJESTY SENSES OUR PLOT.



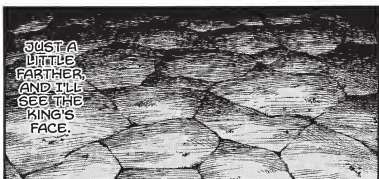




MY EYES
HAVE
ADJUSTED
TO THE
DARK.



AND
WHEN I
DO...



JUST A
LITTLE
FARTHER,
AND I'LL
SEE THE
KING'S
FACE.



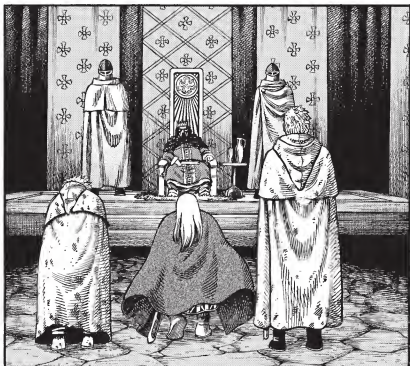
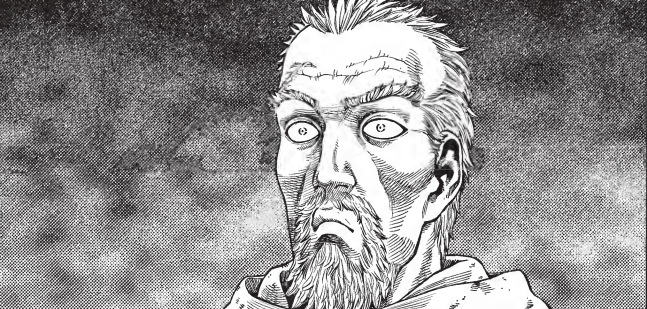
HALT.

CHAPTER 44: THE CURSE OF THE CROWN

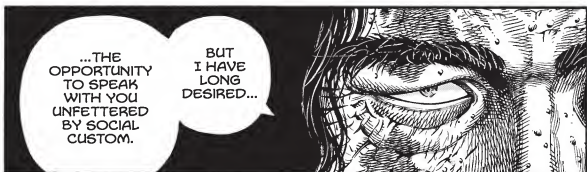
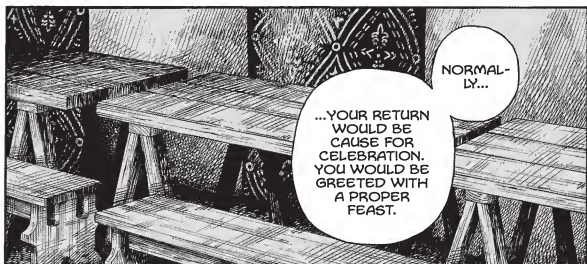
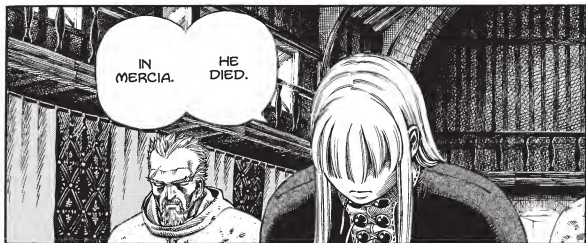


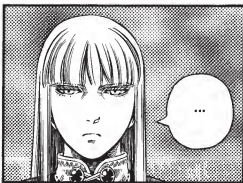
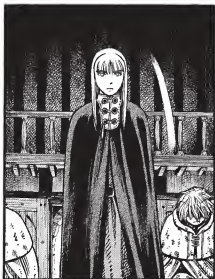
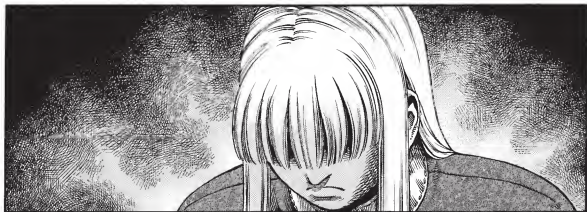
THAT
WILL
DO.

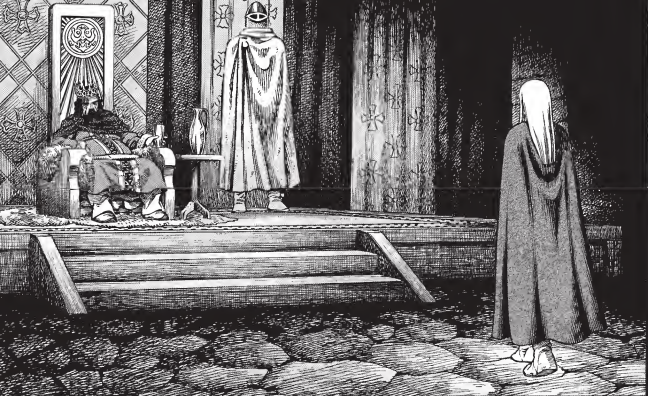
KNEEL.





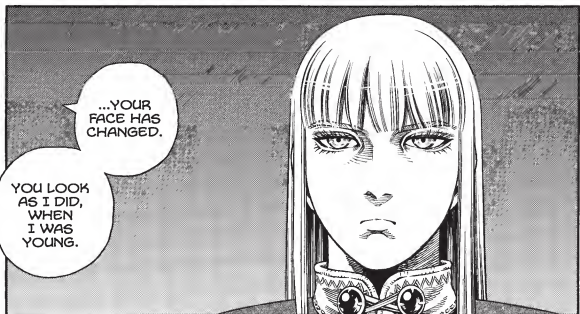






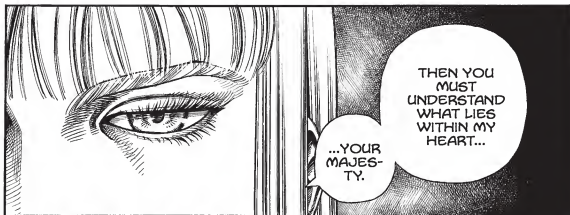
IN
A VERY
SHORT
PERIOD
OF TIME...

AHH.



...YOUR
FACE HAS
CHANGED.

YOU LOOK
AS I DID,
WHEN
I WAS
YOUNG.



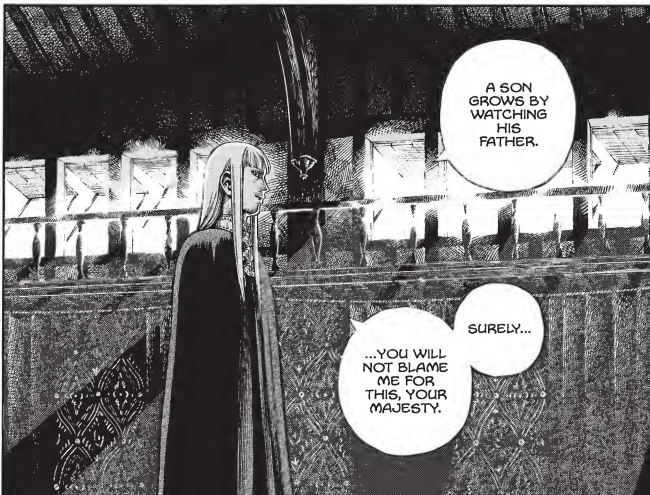
...YOUR
MAJES-
TY.

THEN YOU
MUST
UNDERSTAND
WHAT LIES
WITHIN MY
HEART...



YOU
ARE A
TROUBLE-
SOME
CHILD...

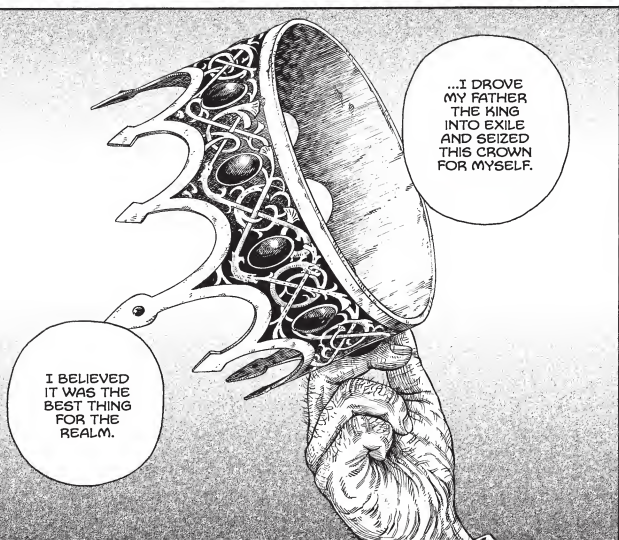
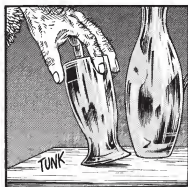
YOU
RESEMBLE
ME EVEN
IN THAT.



A SON
GROWS BY
WATCHING
HIS
FATHER.

SURELY...

...YOU WILL
NOT BLAME
ME FOR
THIS, YOUR
MAJESTY.

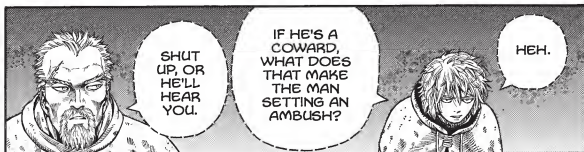




WHEN
SUCH A MAN
WEARS THE
CROWN,
THE WORLD
SUFFERS.

THE OLD
KING WAS
A FOOL.
HE LOVED
WAR.

CRUEL IN
NATURE,
BUT A
COWARD.



SHUT
UP, OR
HE'LL
HEAR
YOU.

IF HE'S A
COWARD,
WHAT DOES
THAT MAKE
THE MAN
SETTING AN
AMBUSH?

HEH.



DON'T
FORGET
THAT YOU
STAND IN
A NEST OF
VIPERS...



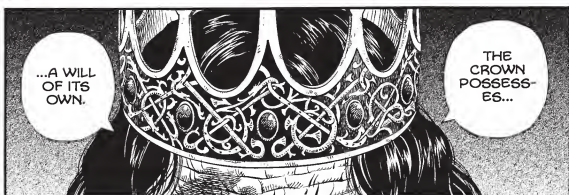
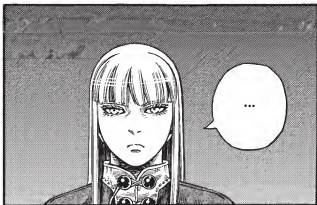
SO YOU
WON'T
BOTHR TO
HIDE YOUR
AMBITIONS,
HIGHNESS...?



UNTIL
I WORE
THIS...

I HAD
DONE
MUCH
GOOD.

AND
I WOULD
DO MORE,
I THOUGHT.



...A WILL
OF ITS
OWN.

THE
CROWN
POSSESSES...



THE
CROWN'S
POWER IS
AKIN TO
THAT OF
THE GODS.

WITH ITS
POWER, YOU
CONTROL A
THOUSAND
SHIPS, TEN
THOUSAND
WARRIORS.

IT CAN
BRING
YOU THE
TREASURES
OF FAR-OFF
LANDS.

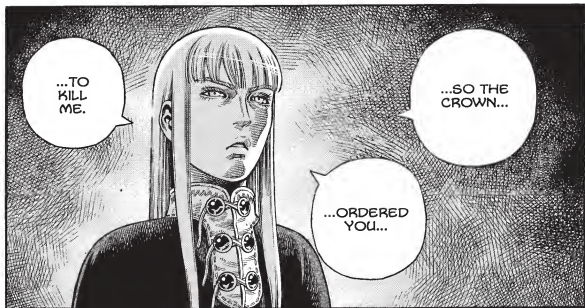
BUT...

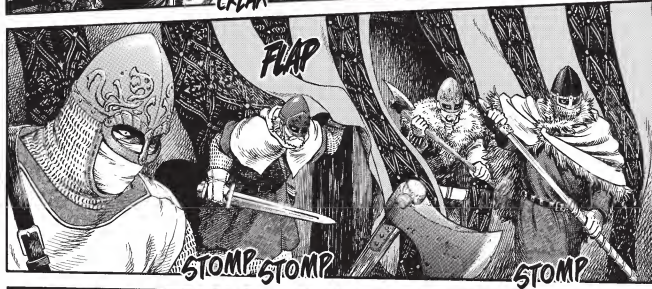
FFFH...

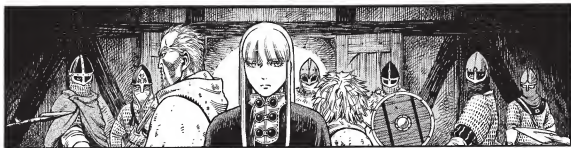
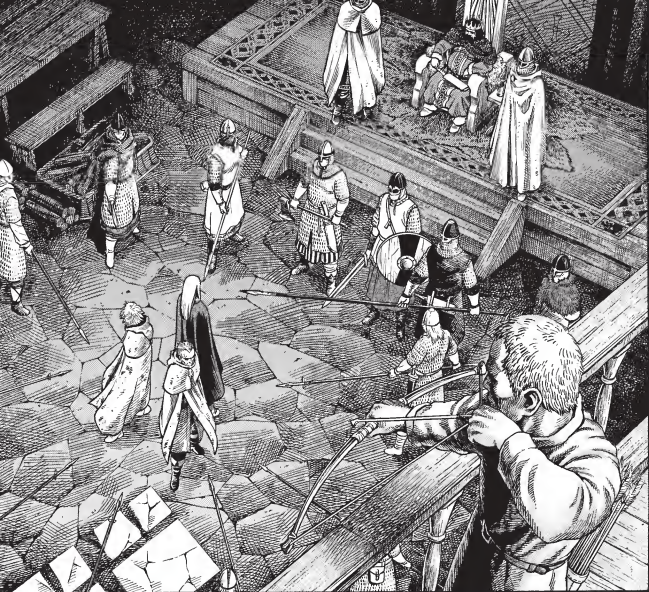
...BUT
THE
CROWN'S
OWN
WILL.

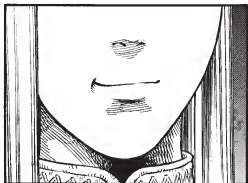
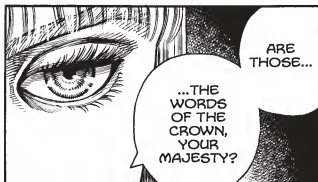
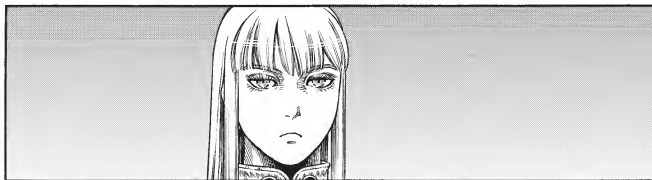
IT IS NOT
THE KING
WHO
WIELDS
THE
POWER...

BUT,
CANUTE...

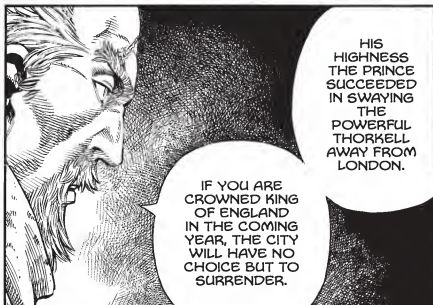




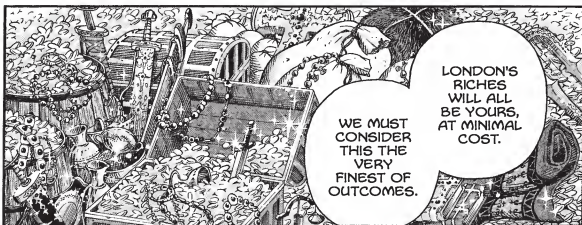




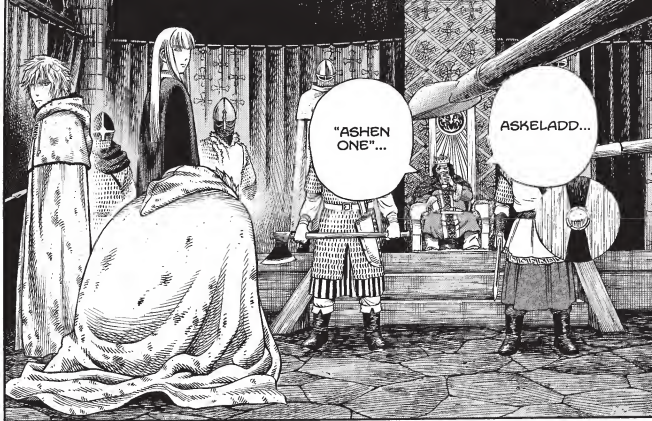




HIS HIGHNESS THE PRINCE SUCCEEDED IN SWAYING THE POWERFUL THORKELL AWAY FROM LONDON.







"ASHEN
ONE"...

ASKELADD...

WHAT
NAME
DID YOUR
FATHER
GIVE
YOU?

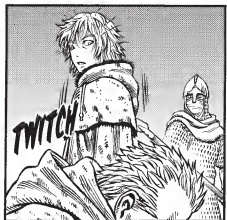
THAT
MUST
BE AN
EPITHET.

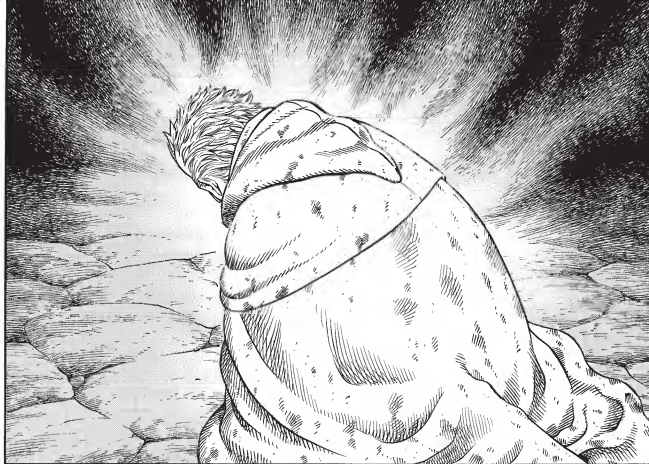


MY
FATHER
GAVE
ME NO
NAME.

I AM
KNOWN
ONLY AS
ASKELADD.







...SO
FURIOUS
BEFORE...

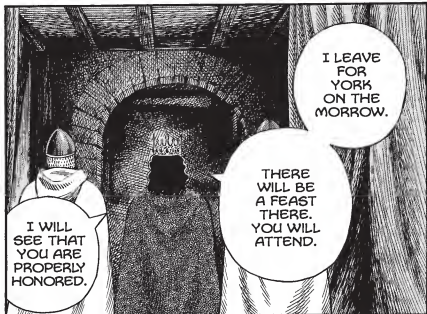
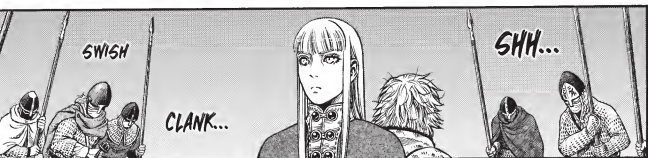
WHAT IS
THIS...?
I'VE NEVER
SEEN
ASKELADD...

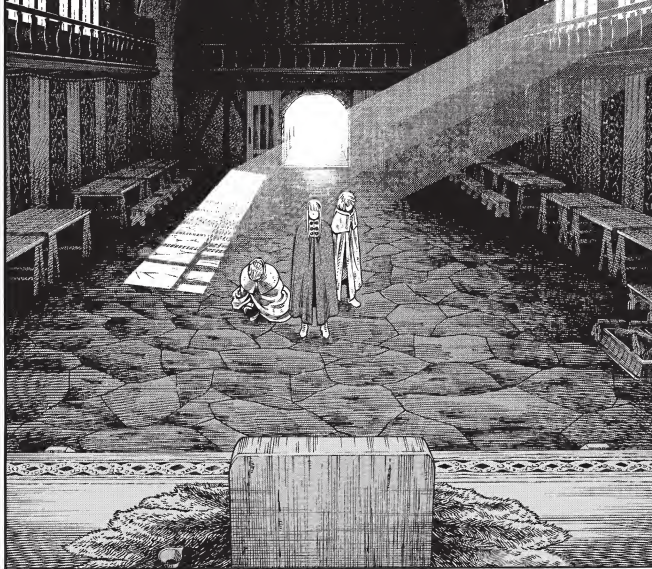


CANUTE.

YOU
HAVE AN
EXCELLENT
VASSAL IN
THIS MAN.

CRK...





PHEWWW...

THAT
SET MY
BLOOD TO
FREEZING,
HIGHNESS.

SHUP

AS YOU
SUSPECTED,
THE KING
CAN DO
NOTHING
MORE THAN
THREATEN.

NO NEED
TO PANIC,
ASKELADD.

EVEN A
THOUGHTFUL
KING IS
TAKEN BY
SUDDEN
URGES.

THAT IS ALL
THE MORE
REASON
NOT TO
PROVOKE
HIM AS YOU
JUST DID.

HE DOES
NOT HAVE
THE JUSTI-
FICATION
TO KILL ME
NOW.

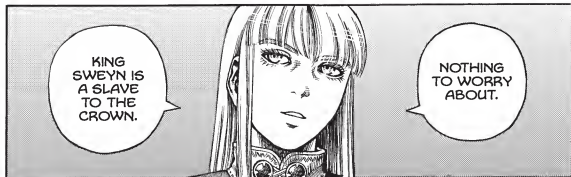
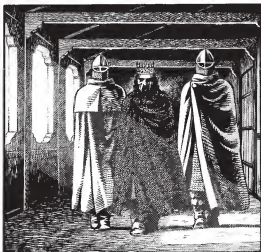
...

HE WISHES TO
BE KNOWN AS
A WISE KING. IF
WE DO NOT ACT
FOOLISHLY, IT
IS SAFEST TO
REMAIN WITHIN
HIS GRASP.



ASKELADD...

A MAN
TO BE
WARY
OF...



KING
SWEYN IS
A SLAVE
TO THE
CROWN.

NOTHING
TO WORRY
ABOUT.

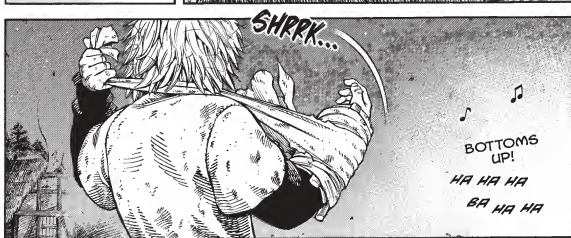
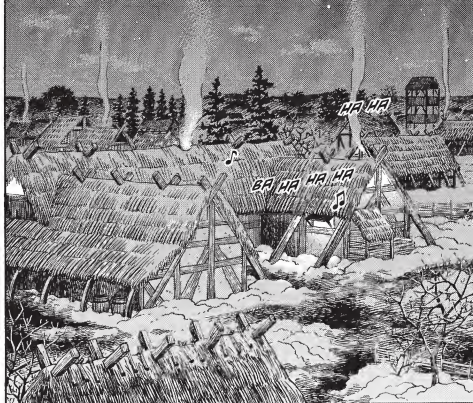


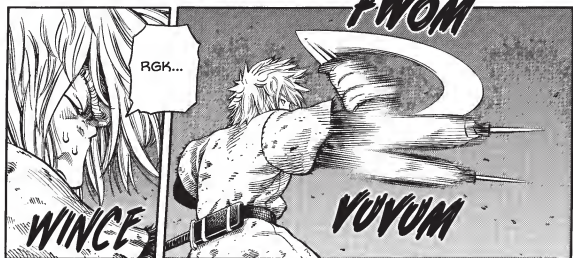
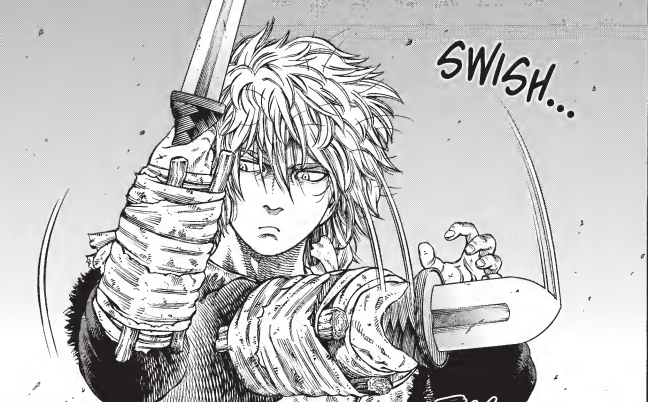
...WILL
WIELD THE
CROWN'S
POWER
WITH SKILL.

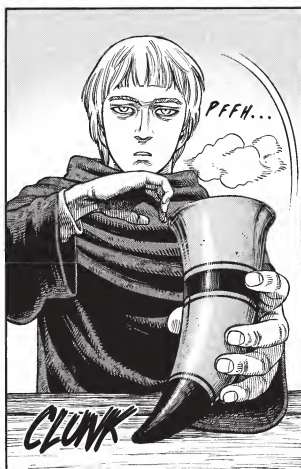
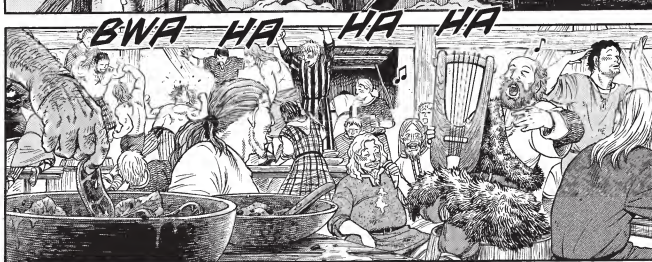
BUT I...

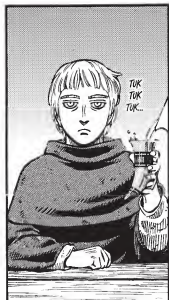


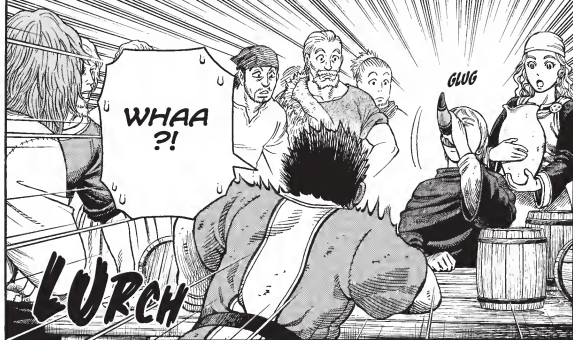
CHAPTER 45: HIS LAST FRIEND

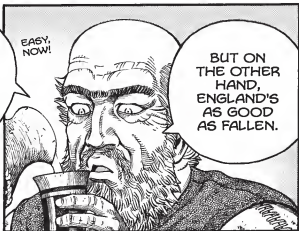
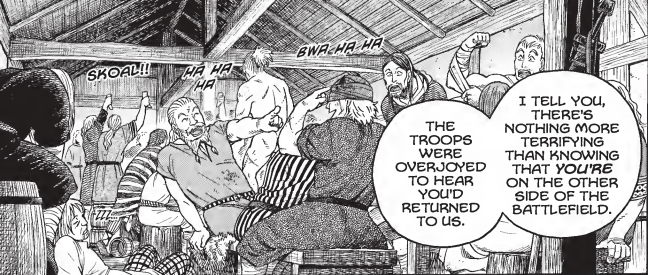


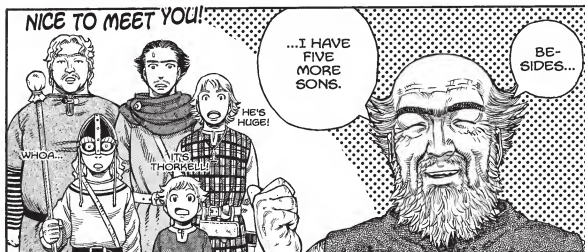










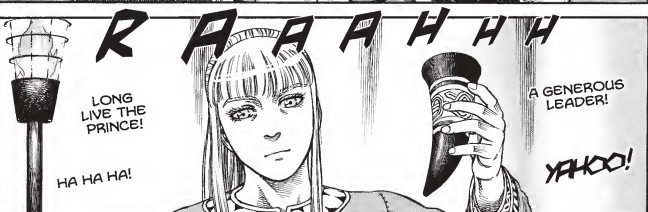




DRINK
YOUR FILL,
COURTESY
OF THE
GENEROUS
PRINCE
CANUTE!!

DRINK
UP,
MY
FRIENDS
!!

SKOAL!!

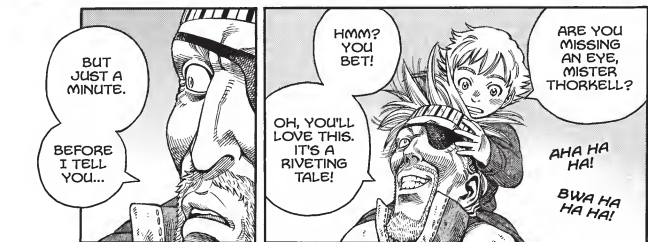


LONG
LIVE THE
PRINCE!

A GENEROUS
LEADER!

YAHOO!

HA HA HA!



BUT
JUST A
MINUTE.

BEFORE
I TELL
YOU...

HMM?
YOU
BET!

OH, YOU'LL
LOVE THIS.
IT'S A
RIVETING
TALE!

ARE YOU
MISSING
AN EYE,
MISTER
THORKELL?

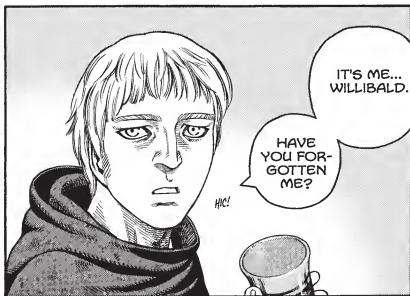
AHA HA
HA!

BWA HA
HA HA!



DID
ANYONE
INVITE A
PRIEST?

WHO'S
THAT
GULPING
DOWN THE
DRINK OVER
THERE?



IT'S ME...
WILLIBALD.

HAVE
YOU FOR-
GOTTEN
ME?

HIC!

WHA-
AAA-
AAT
?!

YOU'RE
KIDDING!!

THREE-
AND-
TWENTY.

YOU
LOOK SO
YOUNG!
HOW
OLD ARE
YOU?!

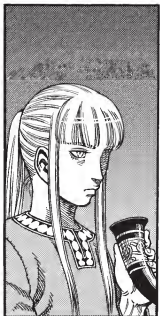
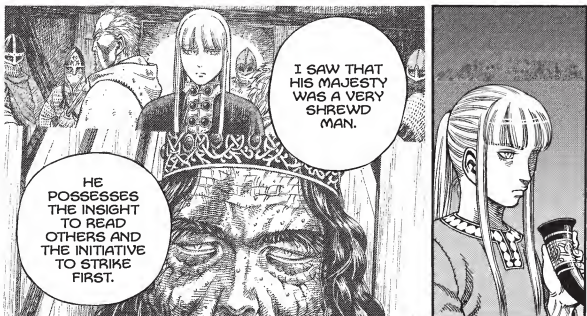


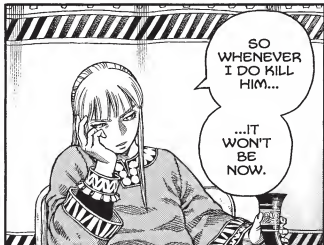
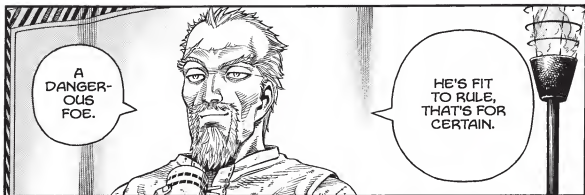
THE
BEARDED
ONE?!

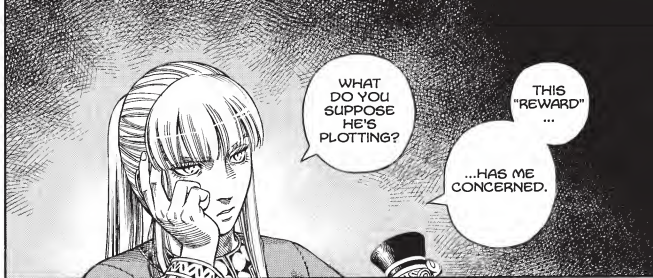
WHA-
AAA-
AAT
?!

HA HA HA!





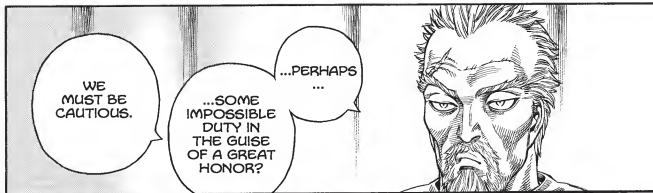




WHAT
DO YOU
SUPPOSE
HE'S
PLOTING?

THIS
"REWARD"
...

...HAS ME
CONCERNED.



WE
MUST BE
CAUTIOUS.

...PERHAPS
...

...SOME
IMPOSSIBLE
DUTY IN
THE GUISE
OF A GREAT
HONOR?



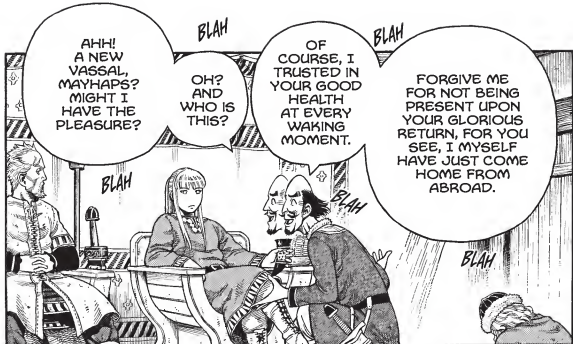
PLEASE
ALLOW
ME TO
EXPRESS
MY JOY AT
YOUR SAFE
RETURN!

OH, HOW
YOUR
FAITHFUL
SERVANT
GUNNAR DID
FEAR FOR
YOUR WELL-
BEING!

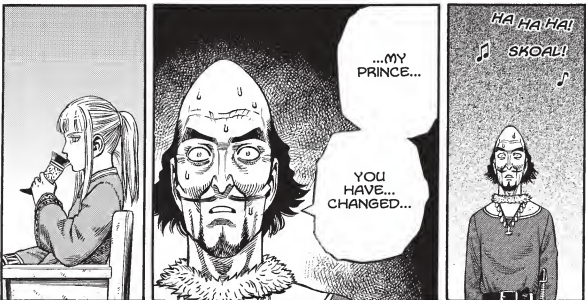
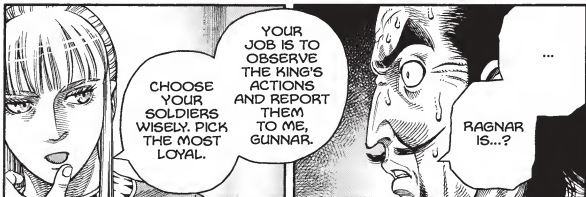


YOUR
HIGHNESS!

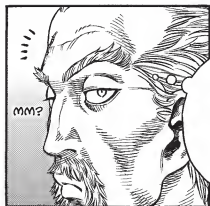
GYA
HA
HA
HA
HAA!









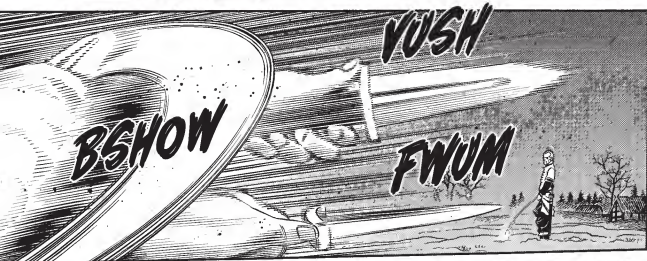


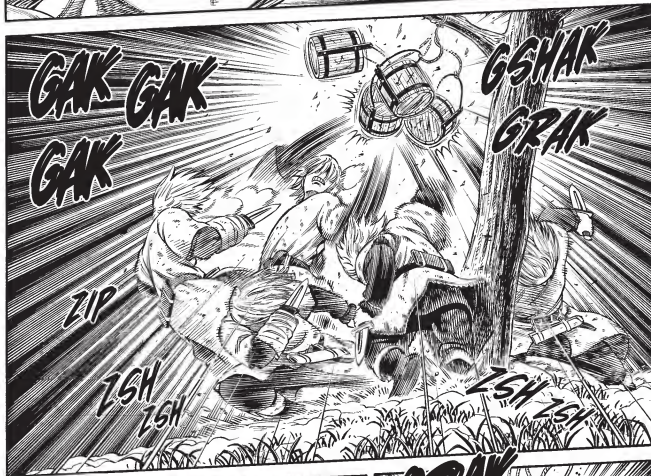
mm?

HE WON'T
BE NEARLY
AS LOYAL
TO THE
PRINCE AS
HE SAYS...

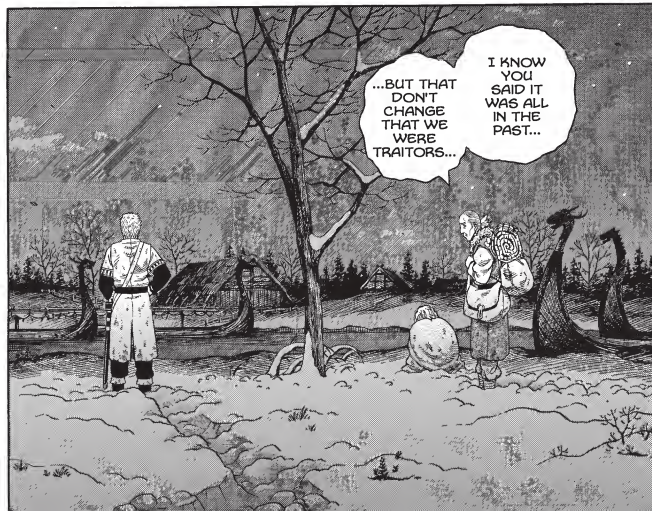
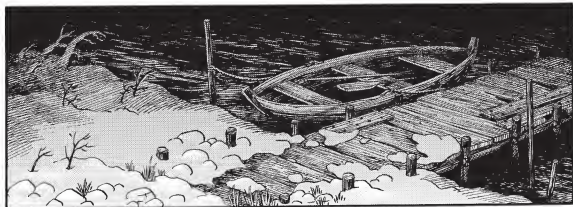
AND WHEN
PUSH COMES
TO SHOVE,
THE SMALL-
HEARTED
PROTECT
THEM-
SELVES.

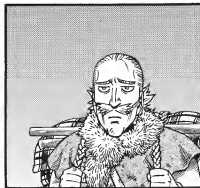
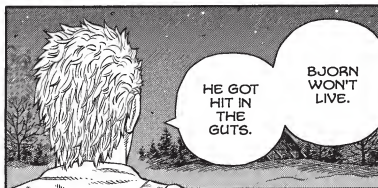
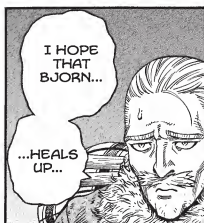
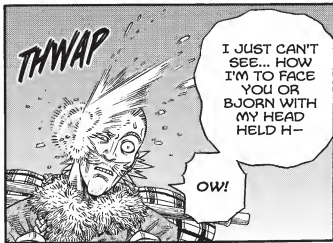
PSH PSH PSH

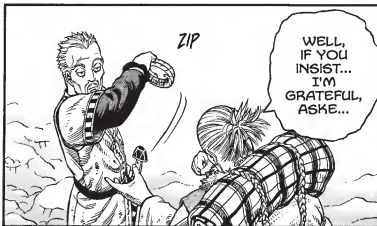
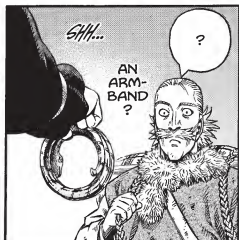
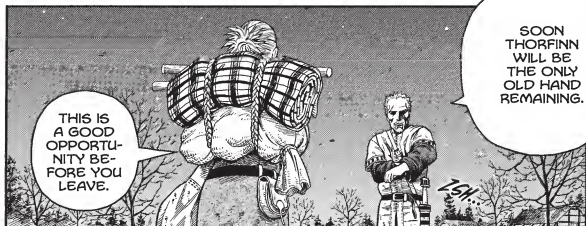


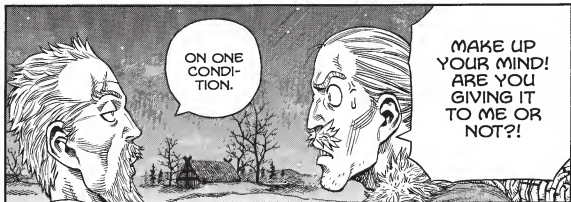
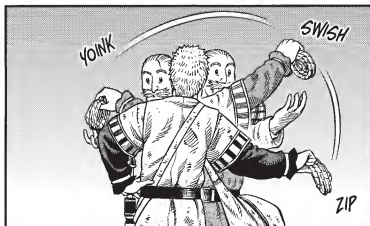












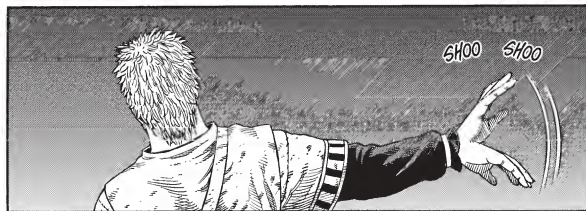
ON ONE
CONDI-
TION.

MAKE UP
YOUR MIND!
ARE YOU
GIVING IT
TO ME OR
NOT?!

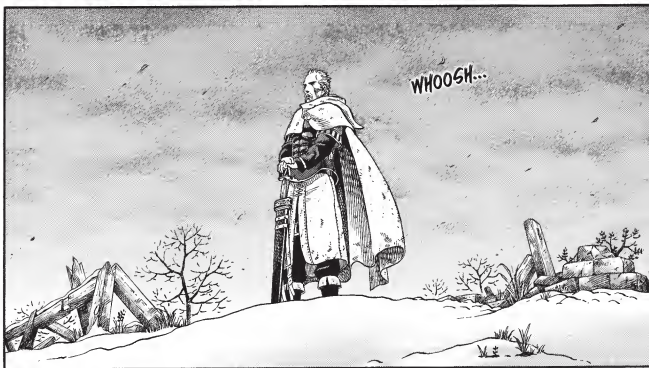


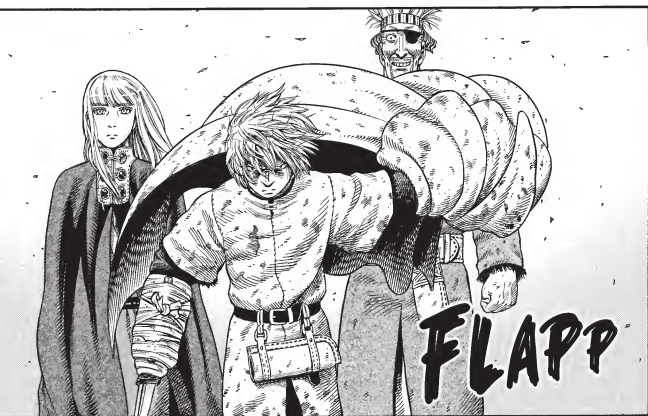
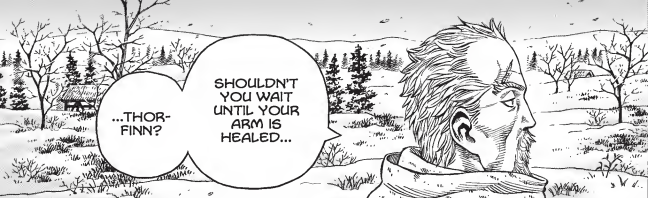
YOU'RE
NOT
SUITED
FOR IT,
ATLI.

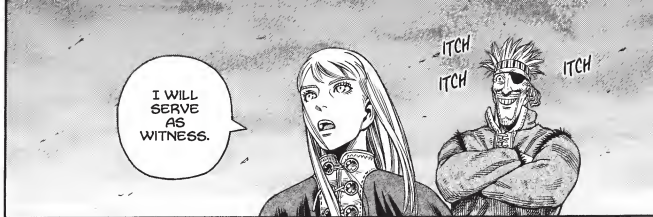
NEVER
SWING A
SWORD
AGAIN.







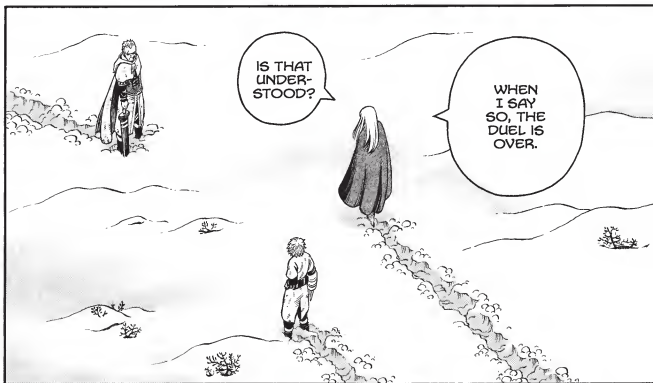




I WILL
SERVE
AS
WITNESS.

ITCH
ITCH

ITCH



IS THAT
UNDER-
STOOD?

WHEN
I SAY
SO, THE
DUEL IS
OVER.



BUT...

A
MINUTE
FIRST,
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS.

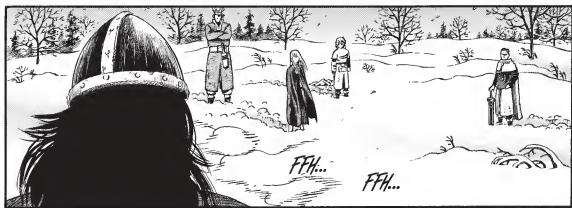
VERY
WELL.

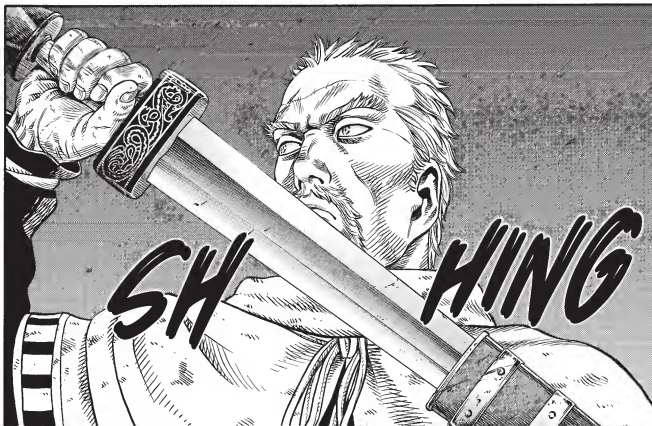
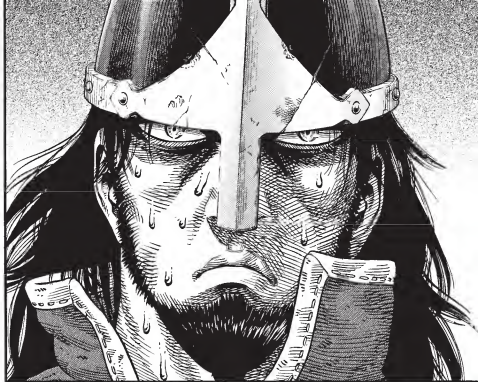


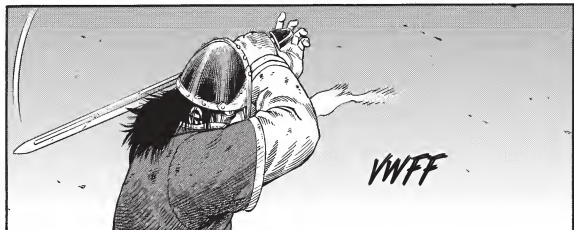
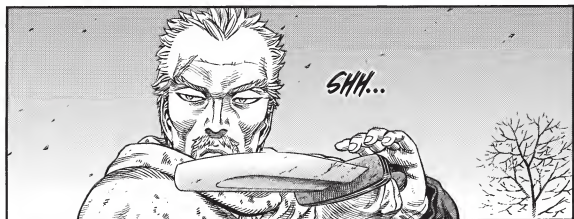
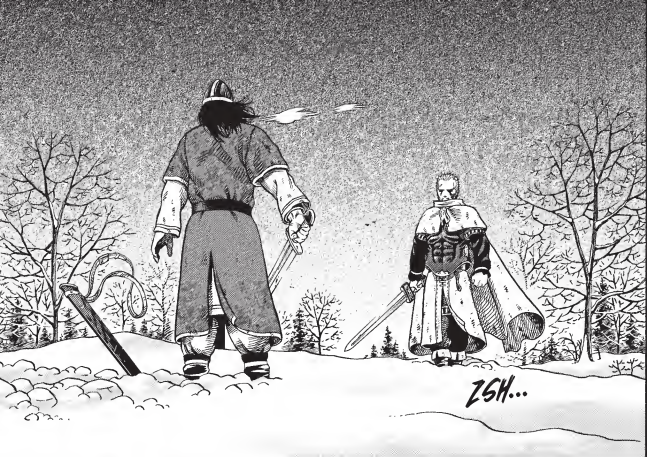
HE'LL
BE
HERE
SOON...

I HAVE
A PRIOR
ENGAGE-
MENT.

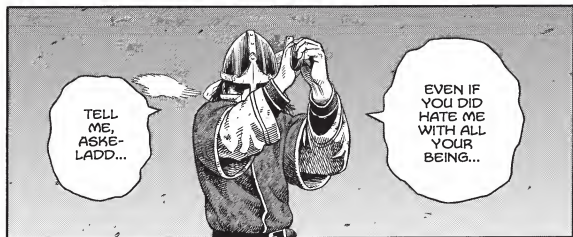
264

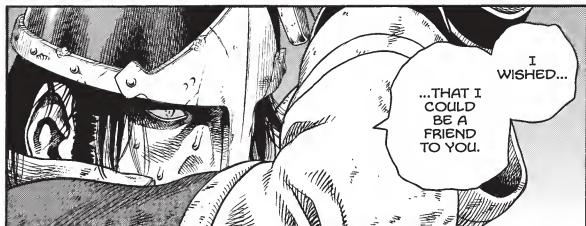






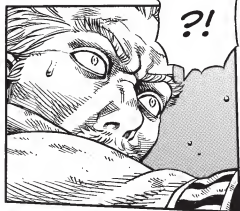




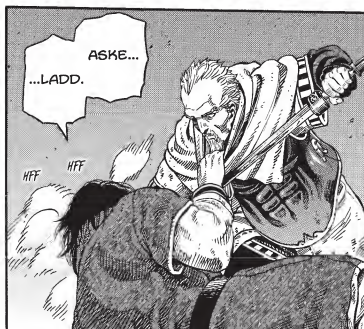
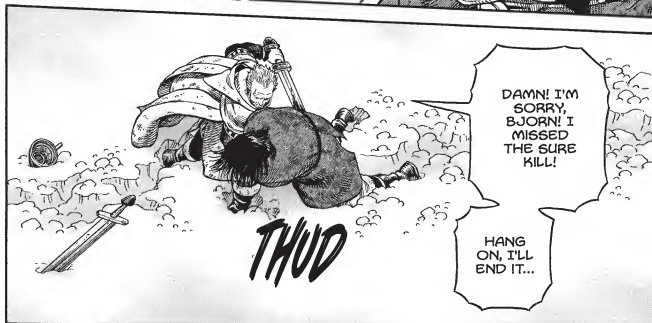
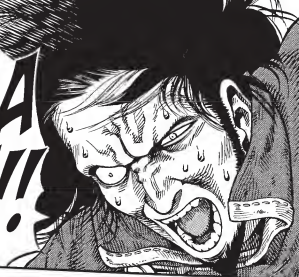


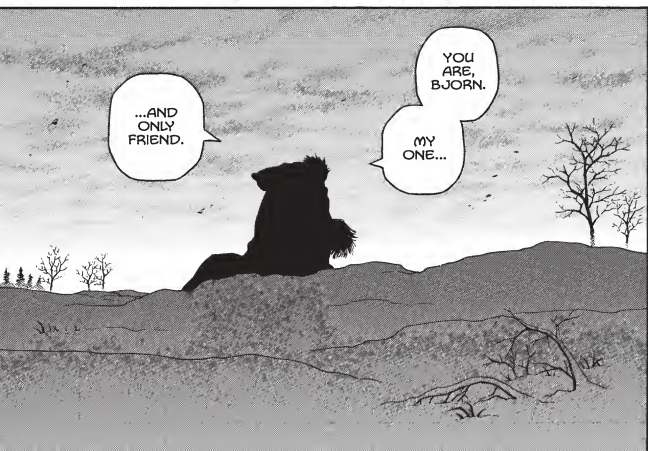
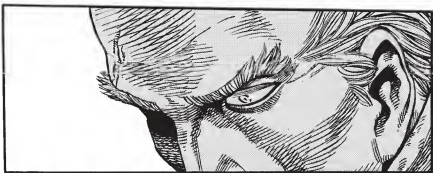
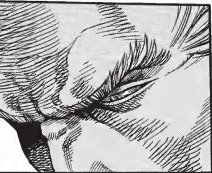
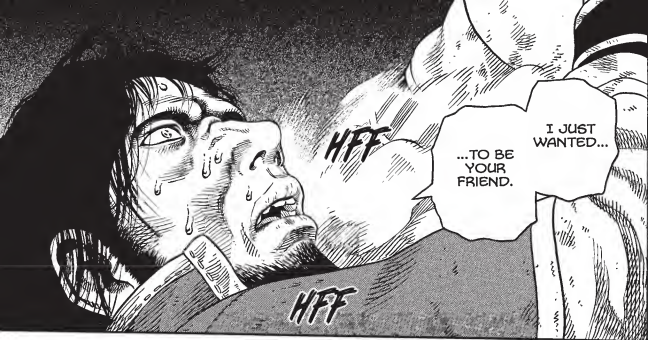
FLASH

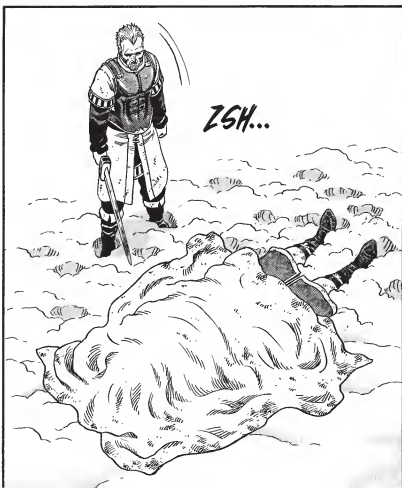
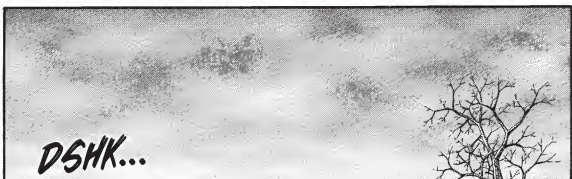


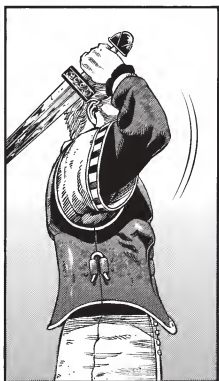


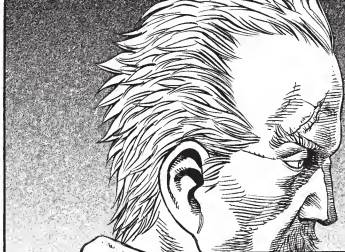
**GAA
HH!!!**





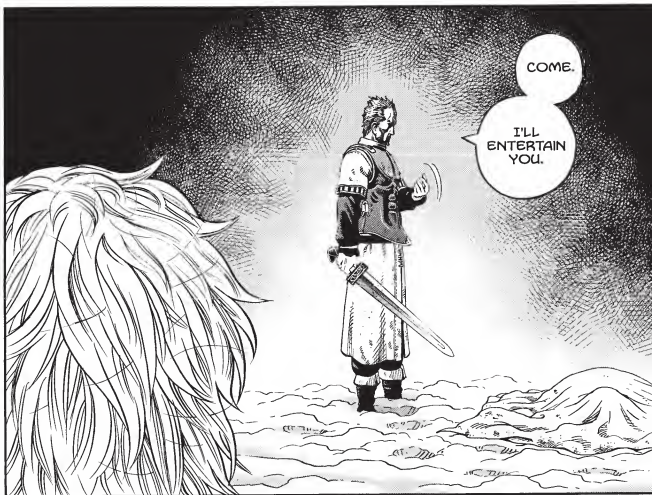






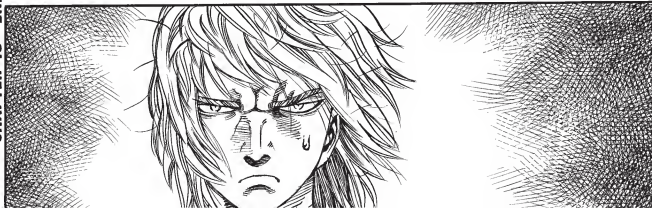
YOU'VE
WAITED
LONG
ENOUGH,
BOY.

ALL
RIGHT.



COME.

I'LL
ENTERTAIN
YOU.



CHAPTER 46: TWO LONE WOLVES



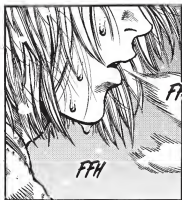
WHOOSH...



ZSH...

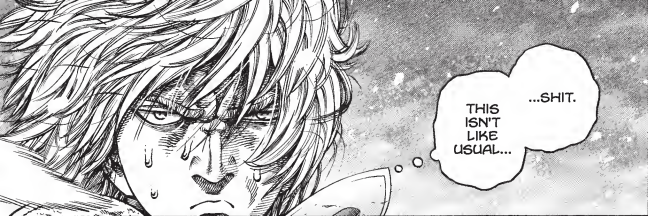
DRIP

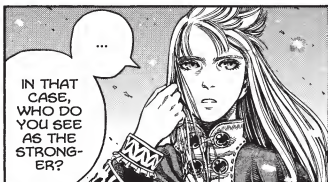
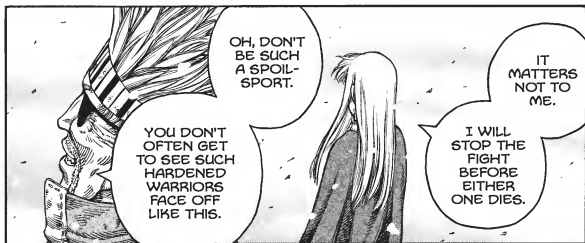
DRIP

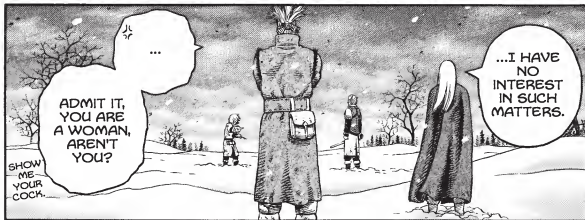
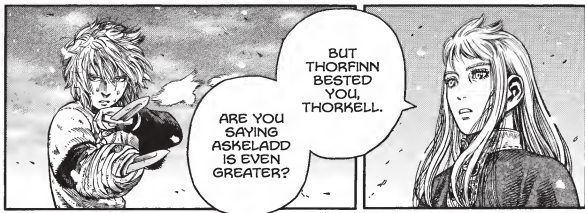


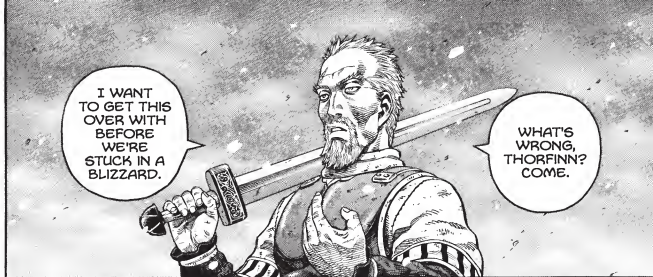
FFH

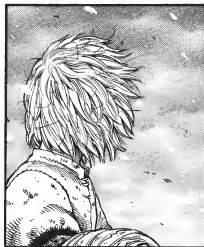
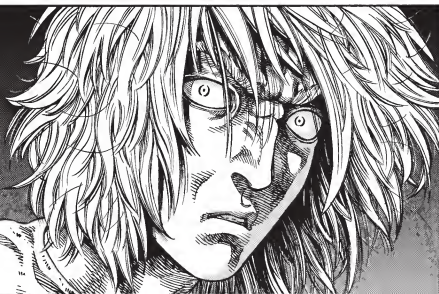
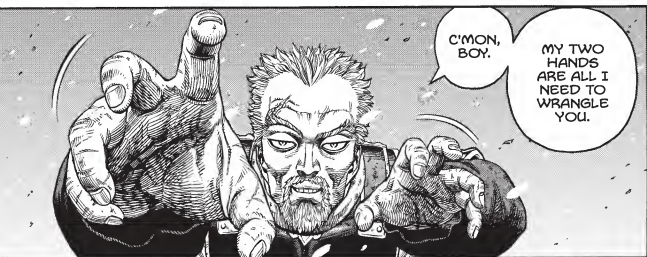
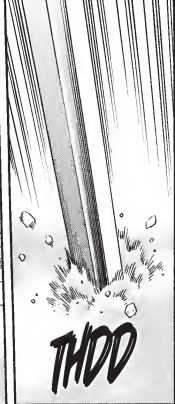
FFH

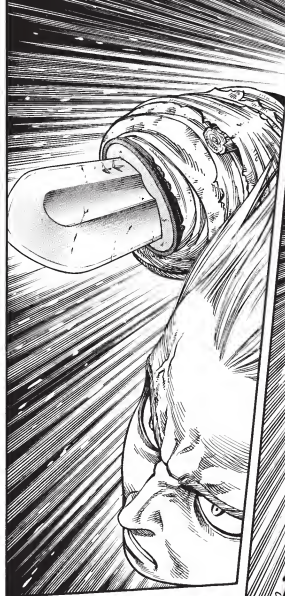


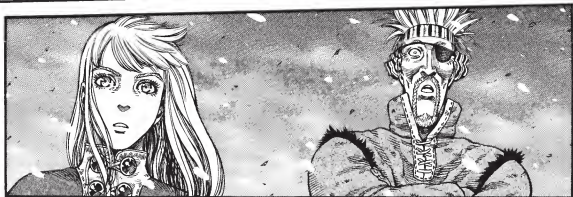
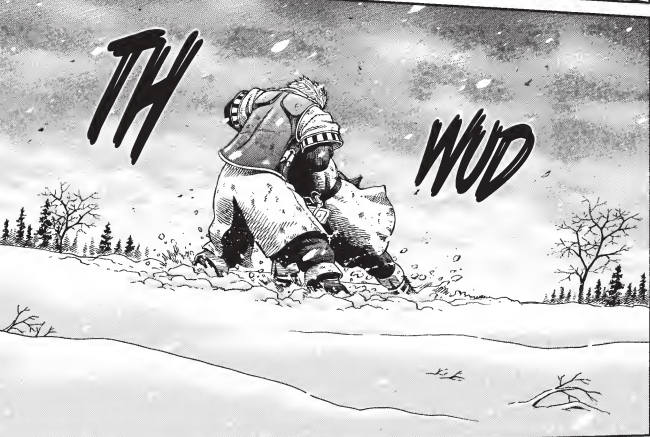




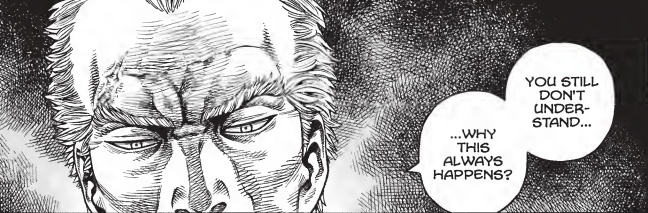












...WHY
THIS
ALWAYS
HAPPENS?

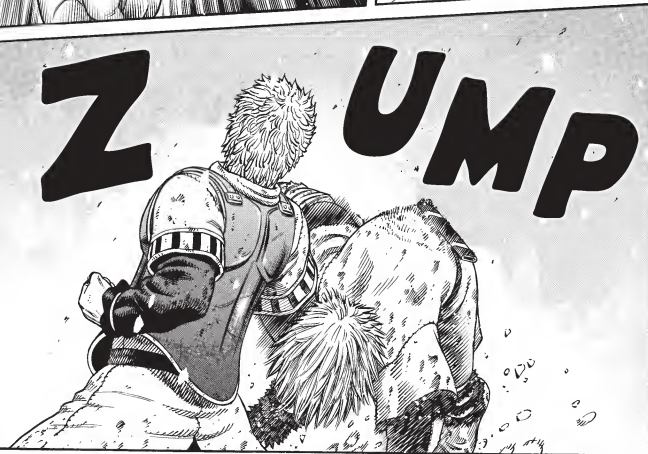
YOU STILL
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND...







GAHH!





CRACK

I HAVE
NOT
HEARD.

NO
IDEA.

WHAT'S
THE
ROOT
OF THIS
DUEL?

CRUNCH

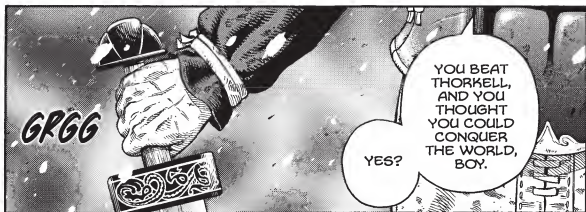
THWAM

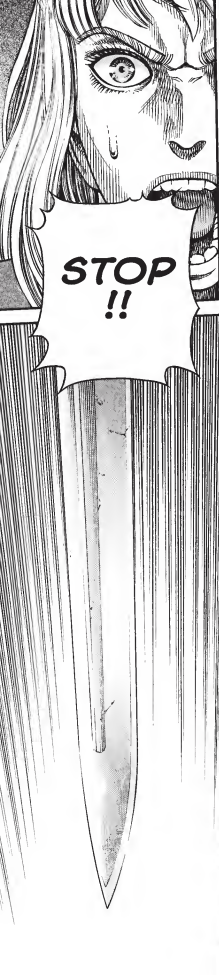


DRSHHH

THIS IS
GROWING
TIRESOME.

YOU
NEVER
LEARN.

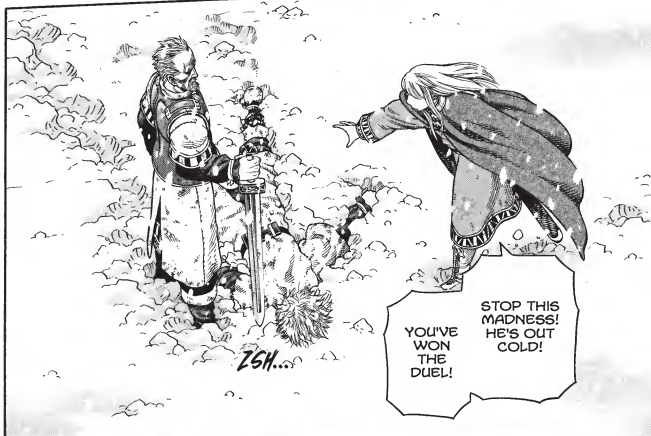
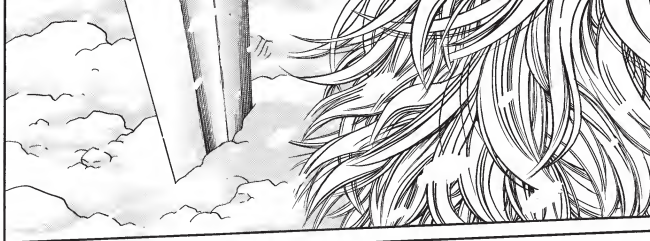




**STOP
!!**



THIS HAS
TO BE MY
LUCKY
FUCKING
DAY.



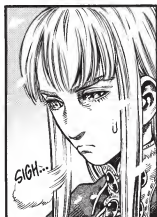


SMACK



THORFINN!

THORFINN!
HEY!



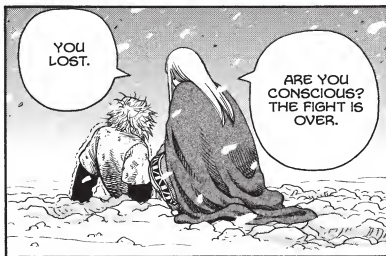
SIGH...



BFWAH...



...



YOU
LOST.

ARE YOU
CONSCIOUS?
THE FIGHT IS
OVER.



STOP.

IT'S
OVER.

SHWUP

FSHH



...



FIGHT
AGAIN
WHEN
YOUR
ARM HAS
HEALED.



YOU
BLACKED
OUT.

WHAT
THE...?!
YOU
LITTLE...

HE
DELIVERED
THE
FINISHING
BLOW.

IT'S NOT THE
INJURY THAT
MADE HIM
LOSE. THE
FOOL LOSES
BECAUSE
HE'S A FOOL.

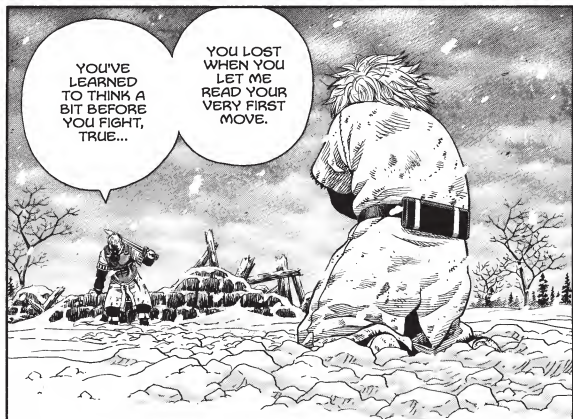
ONE
ARM OR
TWO, THE
RESULT
WILL BE
THE SAME.

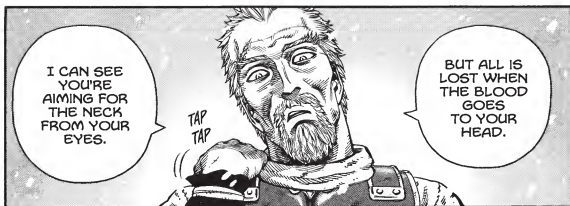
PAT
PAT



YOU'VE
LEARNED
TO THINK A
BIT BEFORE
YOU FIGHT,
TRUE...

YOU LOST
WHEN YOU
LET ME
READ YOUR
VERY FIRST
MOVE.



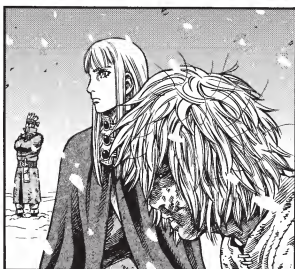


...BJORN
WAS
RIGHT.



AND HE
WAS AN
UGLY
MAN.

MY VERY
FIRST KILL
WAS A
NORSE
WARRIOR.

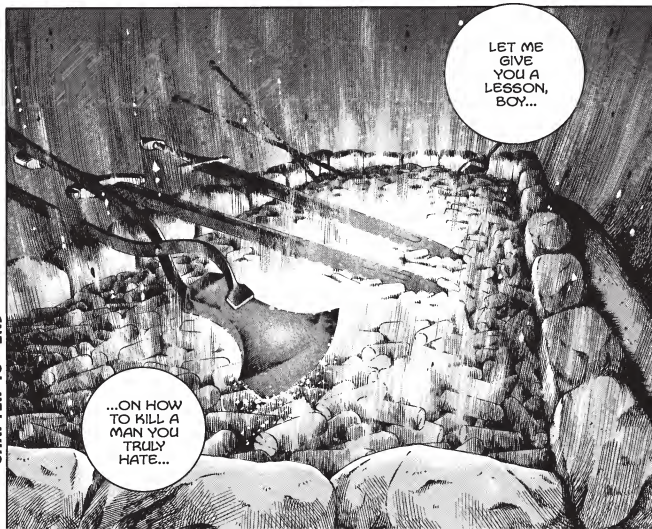




MY
FATHER.



...!



LET ME
GIVE
YOU A
LESSON,
BOY...

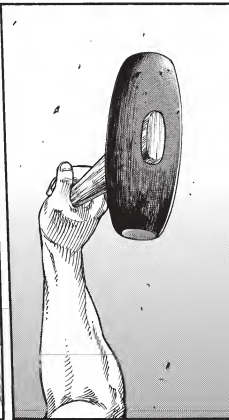
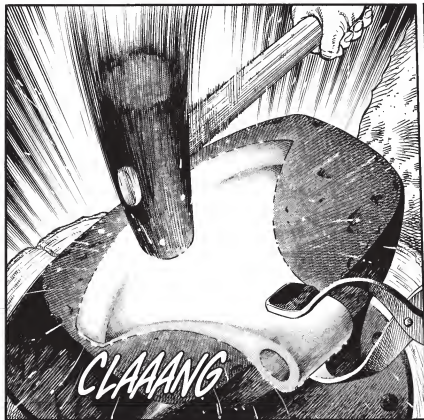
...ON HOW
TO KILL A
MAN YOU
TRULY
HATE...

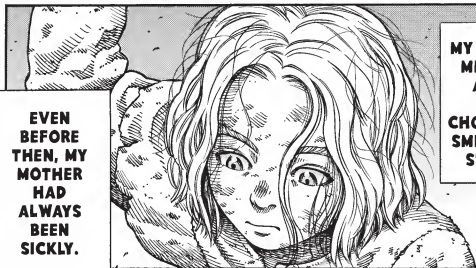
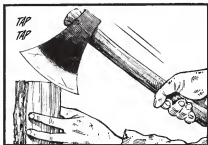
CHAPTER 47: THE HERO IS GONE





MY
MOTHER
WAS
A
SLAVE.



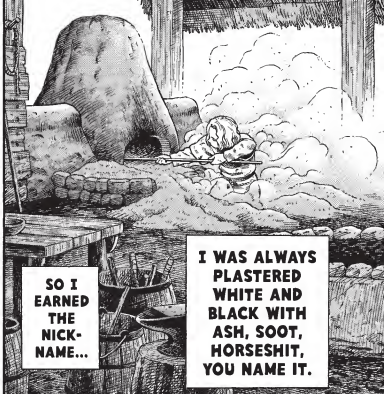


EVEN
BEFORE
THEN, MY
MOTHER
HAD
ALWAYS
BEEN
SICKLY.

MY EARLIEST
MEMORIES
ARE OF
DOING
CHORES AT A
SMITHY AND
STABLES.



ASKE-
LADD—
"THE
ASHEN
LAD."



SO I
EARNED
THE
NICK-
NAME...

I WAS ALWAYS
PLASTERED
WHITE AND
BLACK WITH
ASH, SOOT,
HORSESHIT,
YOU NAME IT.



ANOTHER
GRAND
VICTORY,
I HEAR!

RAH
H

LORD
OLAF HAS
RETURNED!



RAAH H H

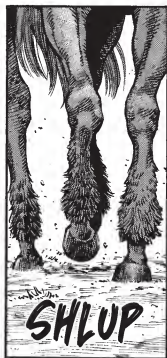
LORD OLAF!

THE BIG
CHEESE!

HE'S SO
GREAT!

SHLUP

SHLUP

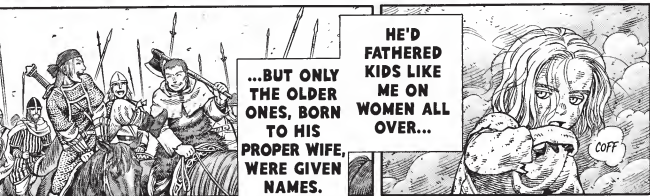


SHLUP



**HE WAS
LIKE ANY
OTHER NORSE
WARRIOR: HE
LOVED TO
DRINK, FUCK,
AND KILL.**

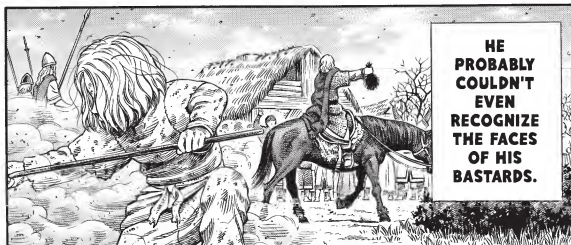
**MY FATHER
WAS A
CHAMPION
OF
JUTLAND.**



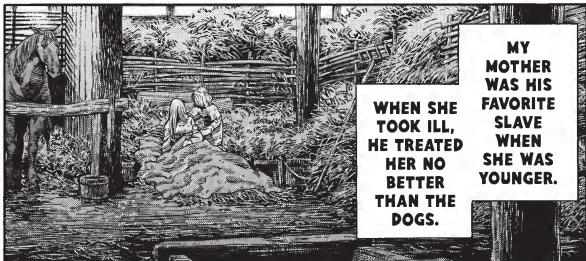
**...BUT ONLY
THE OLDER
ONES, BORN
TO HIS
PROPER WIFE,
WERE GIVEN
NAMES.**

**HE'D
FATHERED
KIDS LIKE
ME ON
WOMEN ALL
OVER...**

COFF

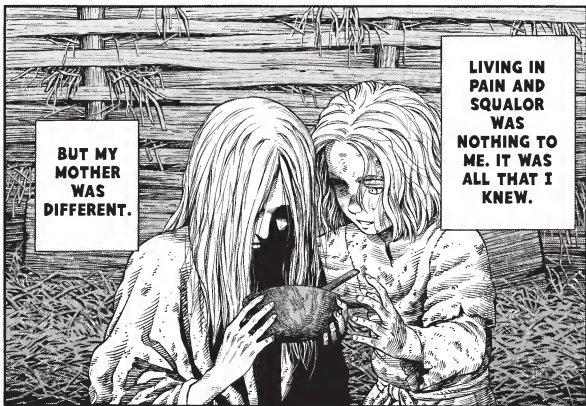


**HE
PROBABLY
COULDN'T
EVEN
RECOGNIZE
THE FACES
OF HIS
BASTARDS.**



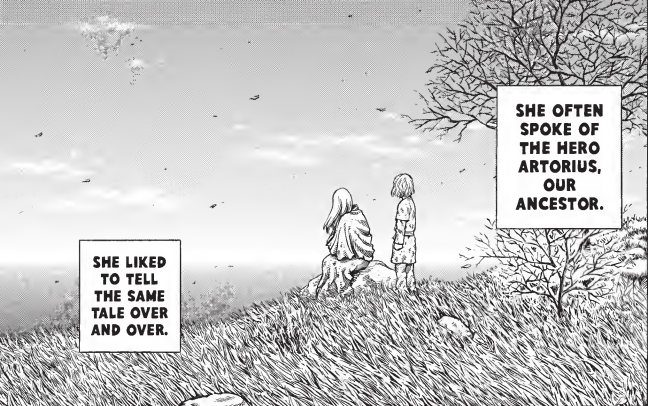
**WHEN SHE
TOOK ILL,
HE TREATED
HER NO
BETTER
THAN THE
DOGS.**

**MY
MOTHER
WAS HIS
FAVORITE
SLAVE
WHEN
SHE WAS
YOUNGER.**



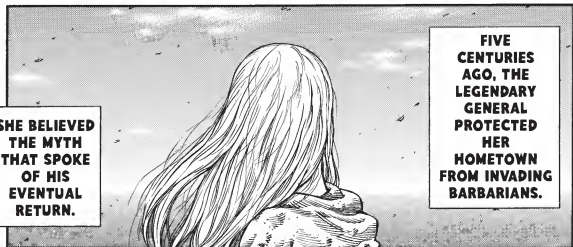
**BUT MY
MOTHER
WAS
DIFFERENT.**

**LIVING IN
PAIN AND
SQUALOR
WAS
NOTHING TO
ME. IT WAS
ALL THAT I
KNEW.**



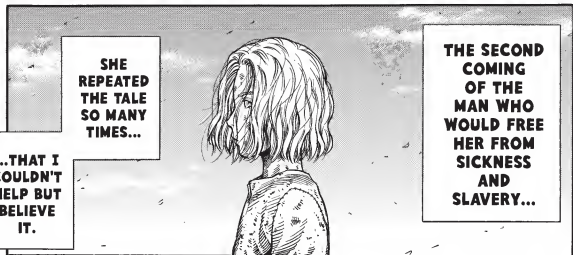
**SHE LIKED
TO TELL
THE SAME
TALE OVER
AND OVER.**

**SHE OFTEN
SPOKE OF
THE HERO
ARTORIUS,
OUR
ANCESTOR.**



**SHE BELIEVED
THE MYTH
THAT SPOKE
OF HIS
EVENTUAL
RETURN.**

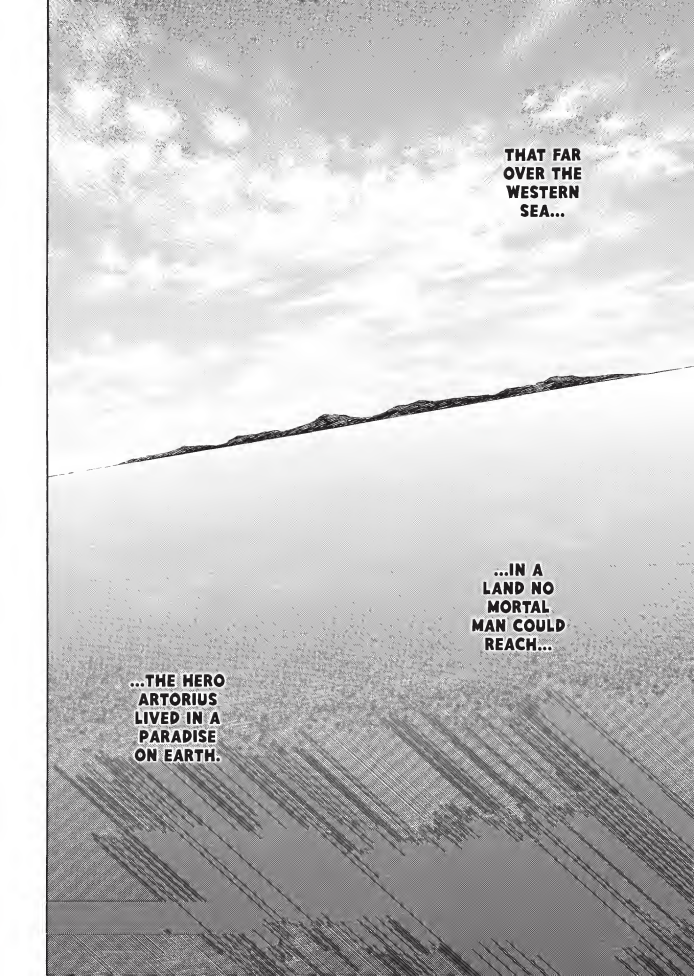
**FIVE
CENTURIES
AGO, THE
LEGENDARY
GENERAL
PROTECTED
HER
HOMETOWN
FROM INVADING
BARBARIANS.**



**SHE
REPEATED
THE TALE
SO MANY
TIMES...**

**...THAT I
COULDN'T
HELP BUT
BELIEVE
IT.**

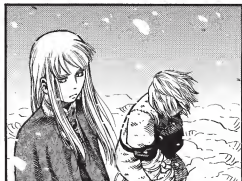
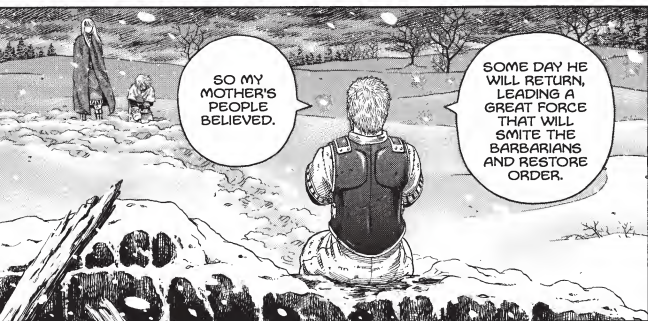
**THE SECOND
COMING
OF THE
MAN WHO
WOULD FREE
HER FROM
SICKNESS
AND
SLAVERY...**



**THAT FAR
OVER THE
WESTERN
SEA...**

**...IN A
LAND NO
MORTAL
MAN COULD
REACH...**

**...THE HERO
ARTORIUS
LIVED IN A
PARADISE
ON EARTH.**





FIVE
CENTURIES
HAVE
PASSED.

THEY'VE
WAITED
AND
WAITED.



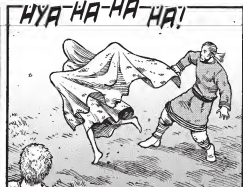
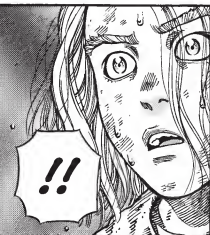
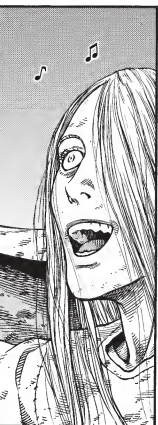
THE
HERO
STILL
HAS NOT
RETURNED.



...HE
WOULD
NEVER
CHOOSE
TO COME
BACK
HERE.

THINK
ABOUT
IT.

IF OUR
ANCESTOR
TRULY LIVED
IN SUCH A
GLORIOUS
PLACE...

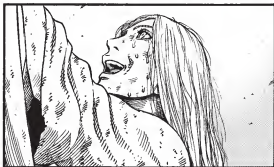


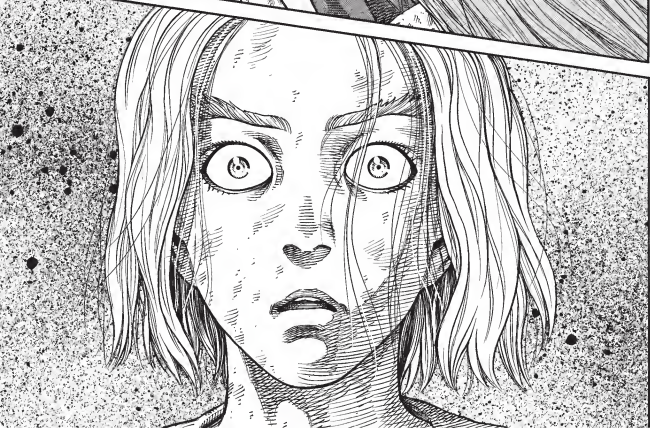


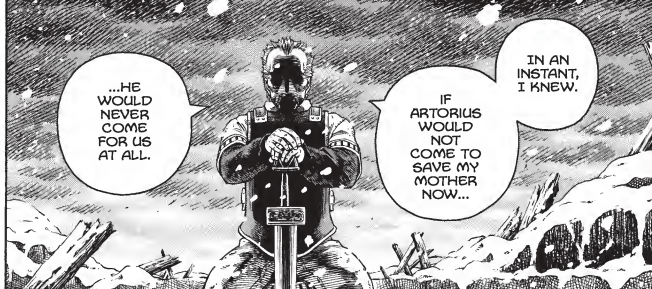
**...AS MY
FATHER
WALKED PAST,
SHE HAD
MISTAKEN
HIM FOR
THE HERO
ARTORIUS.**



**OF ALL
THINGS
...**







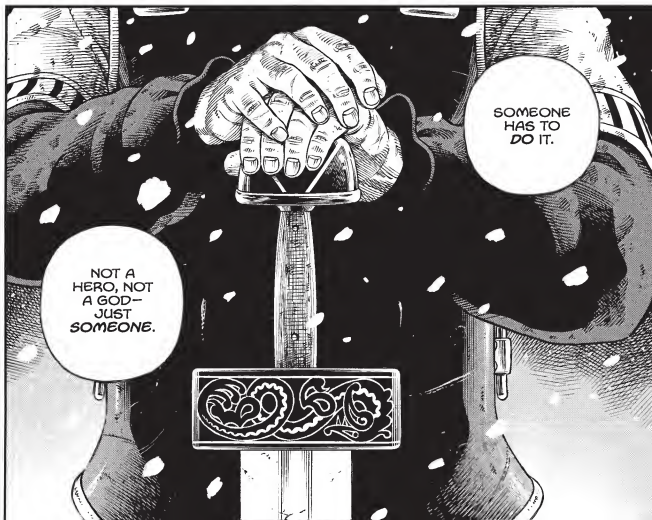
...HE
WOULD
NEVER
COME
FOR US
AT ALL.

IF
ARTORIUS
WOULD
NOT
COME TO
SAVE MY
MOTHER
NOW...

IN AN
INSTANT,
I KNEW.

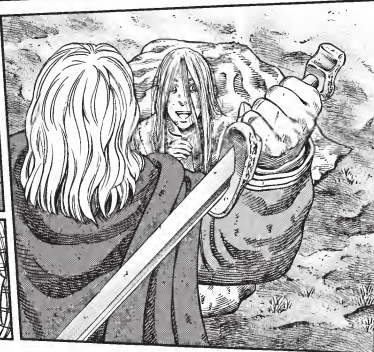
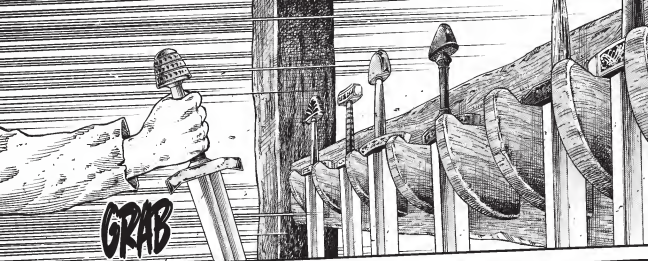


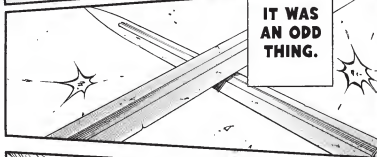
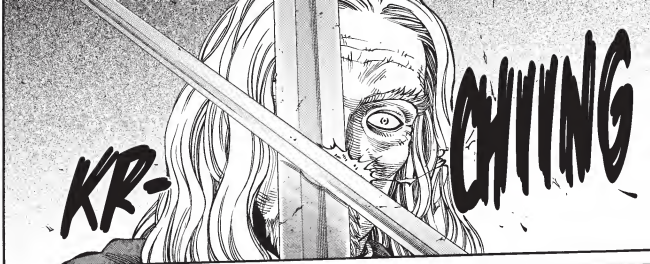
DO YOU
UNDER-
STAND,
BOY?



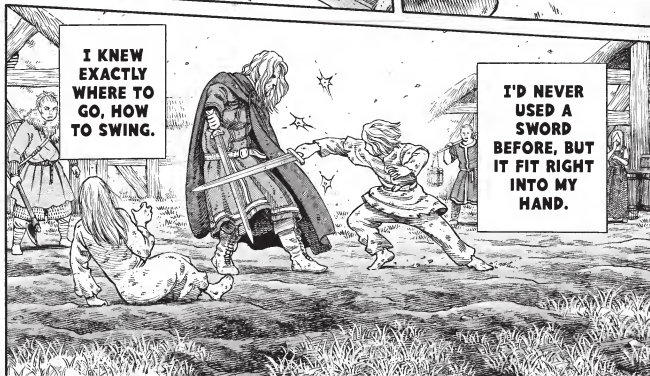
NOT A
HERO, NOT
A GOD—
JUST
SOMEONE.

SOMEONE
HAS TO
DO IT.





IT WAS
AN ODD
THING.



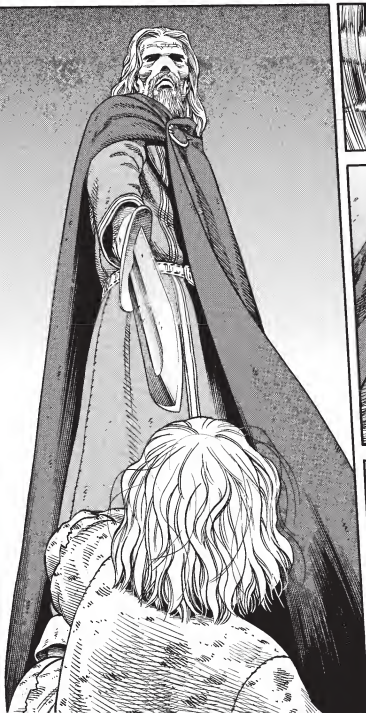
I KNEW
EXACTLY
WHERE TO
GO, HOW
TO SWING.

I'D NEVER
USED A
SWORD
BEFORE, BUT
IT FIT RIGHT
INTO MY
HAND.

THAT SAD
REALI-
ZATION
BROUGHT
TEARS TO
MY EYES.



I TOOK IT AS
PROOF THAT
THE BLOOD
IN MY VEINS
REALLY HAD
COME FROM
THE PIECE
OF SHIT
BEFORE ME.



KSHING

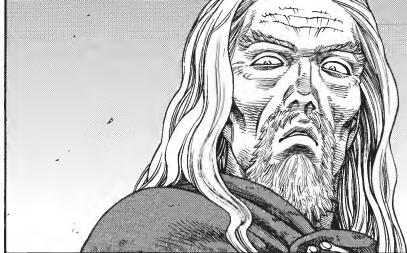


IIING

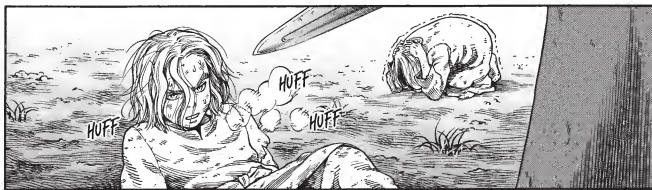
THWUMP



SHR...



ARE
YOU
HERS?



HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

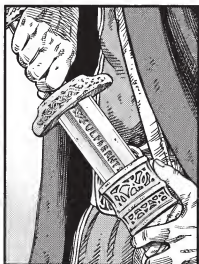
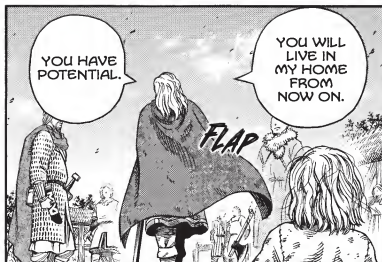
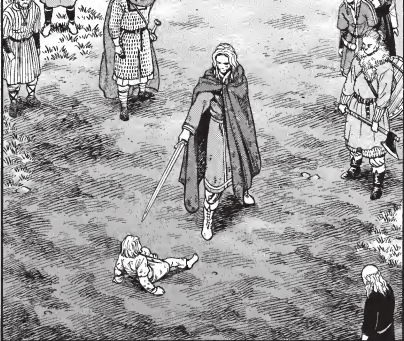


ARE
YOU
MINE?

...



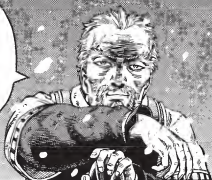
...YES.



I GOT
ALONG
WITH MY
HALF-
BROTHERS.

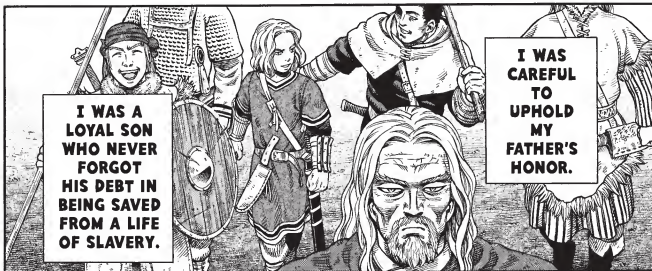
I KEPT UP
WITH THE
COMBAT
AND RIDING
LESSONS.

I
BEHAVED
MYSELF
INSIDE
HIS HALL.



I WAS A
LOYAL SON
WHO NEVER
FORGOT
HIS DEBT IN
BEING SAVED
FROM A LIFE
OF SLAVERY.

I WAS
CAREFUL
TO
UPHOLD
MY
FATHER'S
HONOR.



IN TIME, THE
OTHERS CAME
TO ACCEPT ME,
AS THOUGH
I WERE HIS
LEGITIMATE
SON.



IT TOOK
TWO
YEARS TO
REACH
THAT
POINT.

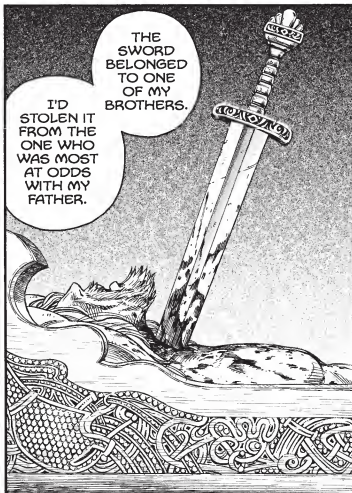
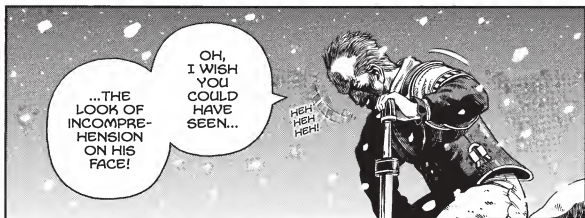




**A MOMENT
WHEN HIS
GUARD
WAS
DOWN...**

**...AND
THE
RIGHT
TO HIS
FORTUNE.**

**I WISHED
FOR TWO
THINGS.**





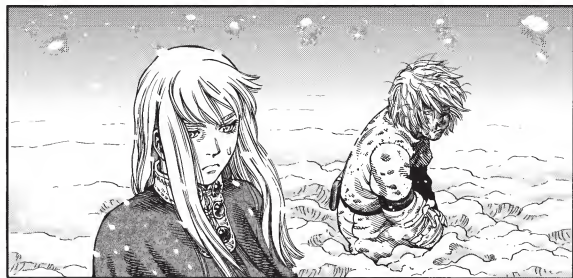
STUPID...

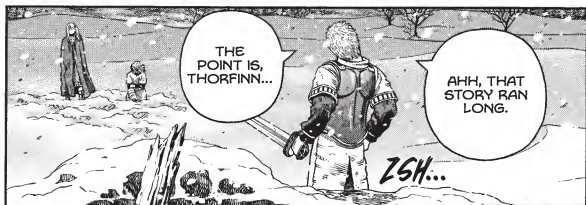
...AND
FILTHY...

...AND
UNCONCERNED
WITH
ANYTHING BUT
THEIR OWN
BASE URGES.

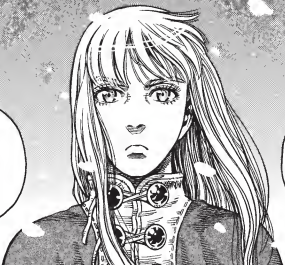
FOR
EVERY
ONE YOU
KILL, TWO
TAKE HIS
PLACE.

AND NOW
THESE UGLY
MEN FLOOD
FORTH FROM
EVERY CAVE
AND HOVEL TO
SQUEEZE THE
LIFE OUT OF
THE WORLD.





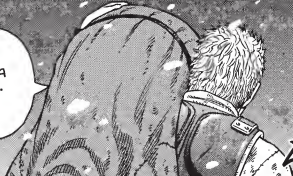




I CAN
TELL
FROM
YOUR
FACE.

MORE
THAN ME
OR SWEYN,
AT LEAST.

YOU'RE
BETTER
SUITED TO
BEING A
KING.



...BUT A
VIKING.

I'M
NOTHING...

ZZLUSH...

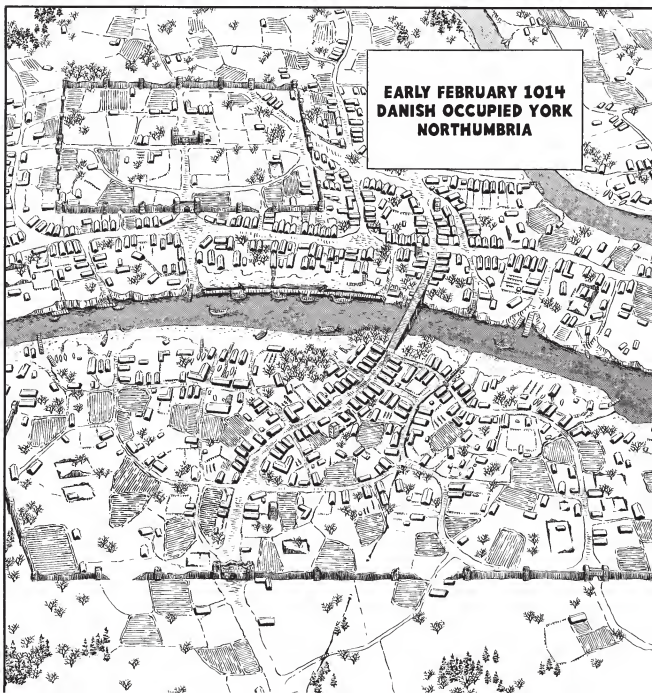
...DID
THEY...

...FORGET
ABOUT
ME...?

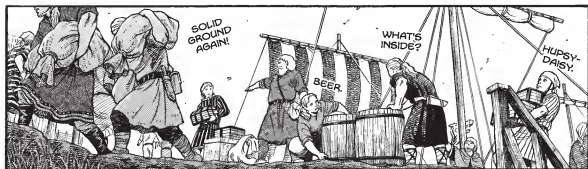




**FIVE DAYS
LATER**



**EARLY FEBRUARY 1014
DANISH OCCUPIED YORK
NORTHUMBRIA**





R A A A H

I
LIKE
IT!

THAT'S
TOO
EXPENSIVE!
KNOCK
DOWN THE
PRICE!

FWOO!

I'LL
BUY
HER!

GIVE US A
YOUNGER
GIRL! I
WANT A
YOUNG
ONE!

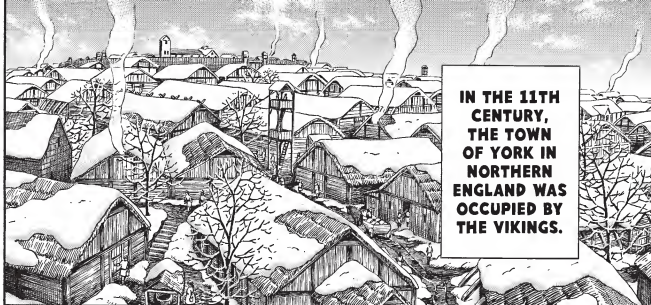
DO I
HAVE A
BUYER?

TAKE A HARD
LOOK, GOOD
FELLOWS!
DOES
ANYONE LIKE
WHAT THEY
SEE?

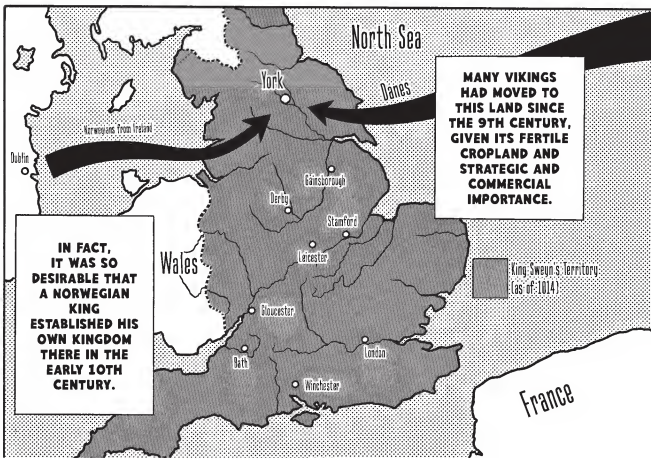
H

CHAPTER 48: REUNION





IN THE 11TH CENTURY, THE TOWN OF YORK IN NORTHERN ENGLAND WAS OCCUPIED BY THE VIKINGS.



MANY VIKINGS HAD MOVED TO THIS LAND SINCE THE 9TH CENTURY, GIVEN ITS FERTILE CROPLAND AND STRATEGIC AND COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE.

IN FACT, IT WAS SO DESIRABLE THAT A NORWEGIAN KING ESTABLISHED HIS OWN KINGDOM THERE IN THE EARLY 10TH CENTURY.

France

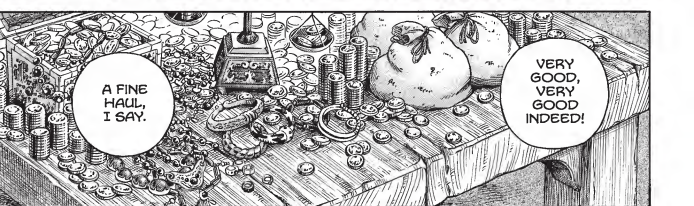


**THE
VIKINGS,
OF
COURSE...**

**AFTER A BRIEF
RETURN TO
ENGLISH CONTROL,
YORK HAD BY
1014 COME
UNDER THE
CONTROL OF KING
SWEYN AND THE
DANISH VIKINGS,
WHO CALLED IT
"JORVIK."**

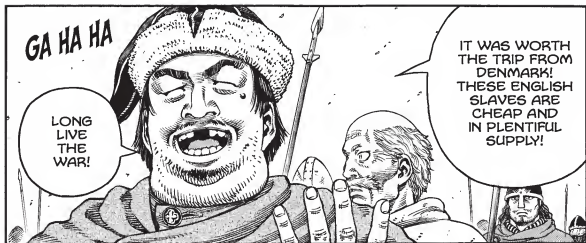


**...WERE
ALSO SLAVE
TRADERS WHO
GATHERED
AND SOLD
THEIR WARES
THROUGHOUT
EUROPE.**



**A FINE
HAUL,
I SAY.**

**VERY
GOOD,
VERY
GOOD
INDEED!**



GA HA HA

LONG
LIVE
THE
WAR!

IT WAS WORTH
THE TRIP FROM
DENMARK!
THESE ENGLISH
SLAVES ARE
CHEAP AND
IN PLENTIFUL
SUPPLY!



DON'T BE
SILLY—
THEY'RE
ALL
CHRISTIANS.

THE CHURCH
WILL PAY
THROUGH
THE NOSE
TO RETURN
THEM TO
THE FLOCK.

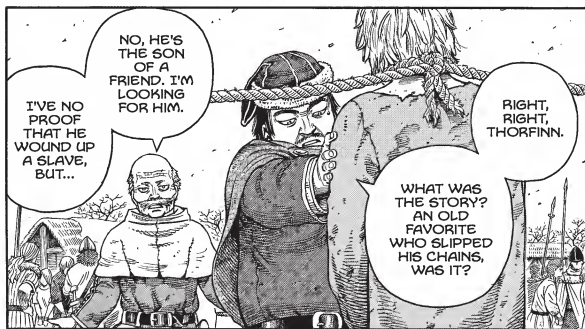
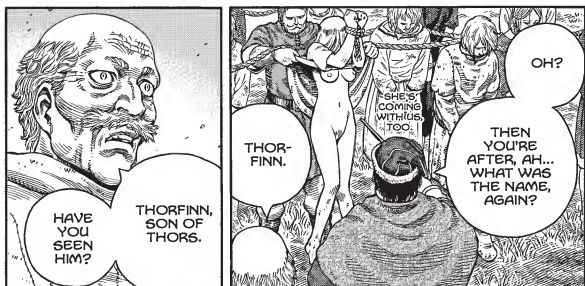
CAN YOU
ACTUALLY
DEAL ALL
OF THEM
AWAY,
HALLDOR?

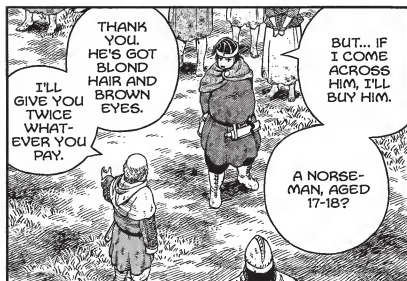


HAVEN'T
YOU EVER
CONSIDERED
THE SLAVE
TRADE, LEIF?
YOU'D MAKE
A KILLING.

AND THE
BEST OF THE
BUNCH WILL
RETURN WITH
ME. THERE'S
DEMAND FOR
THE ENGLISH
BACK
HOME.

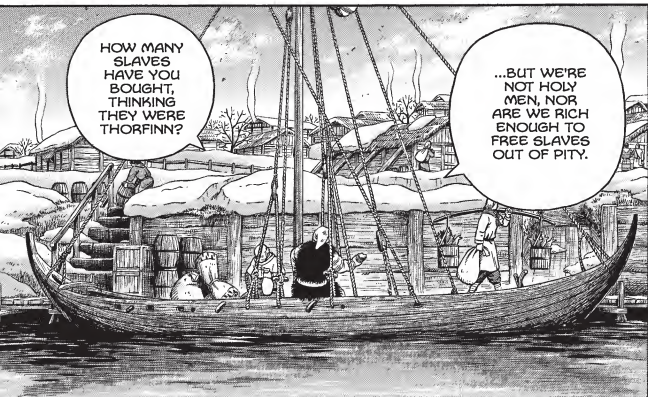
SPEAKING
OF
WHICH,
YOU'LL
DO.







LOOK,
I KNOW
HOW YOU
FEEL,
POPS...



HOW MANY
SLAVES
HAVE YOU
BOUGHT,
THINKING
THEY WERE
THORFINN?

...BUT WE'RE
NOT HOLY
MEN, NOR
ARE WE RICH
ENOUGH TO
FREE SLAVES
OUT OF PITY.



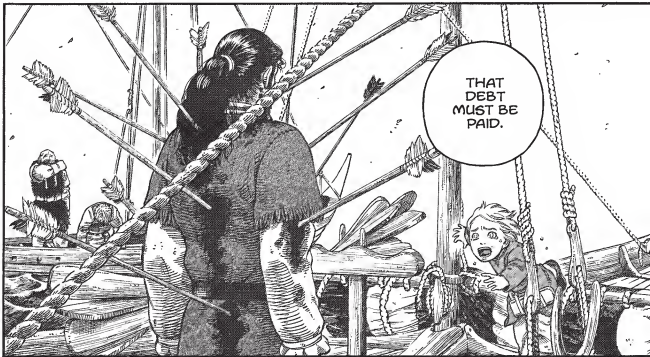
WE
MUST
FORGET
HIM,
LEIF.

IT'S
BEEN
ELEVEN
YEARS.

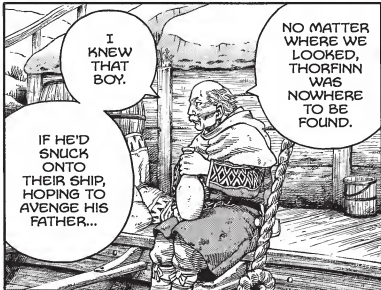


...WE
WOULD NOT
BE WHERE
WE ARE
NOW, IF NOT
FOR THORS.

WHEN
WE WERE
WAYLAID
BY
PIRATES...



THAT
DEBT
MUST BE
PAID.

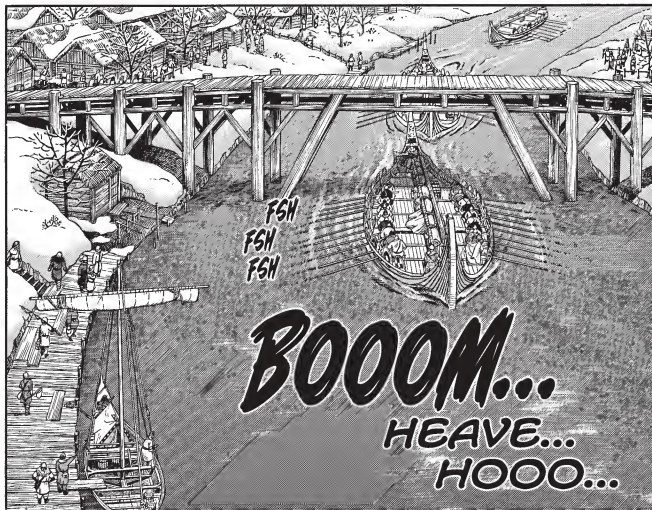
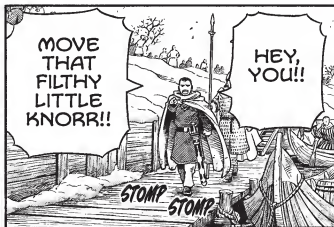


I
KNEW
THAT
BOY.

IF HE'D
SNUCK
ONTO
THEIR SHIP,
HOPING TO
AVENGE HIS
FATHER...

NO MATTER
WHERE WE
LOOKED,
THORFINN
WAS
NOWHERE
TO BE
FOUND.







A WHOLE
LINE OF
IMPORTANT
SHIPS IS
COMING TO
USE THIS
PIER!!

GET
MOVING,
YOU
PEASANTS!!

BOOOM...



SHOW
THEM EVEN
THE TINIEST
SLIGHT, AND
THEY'LL
STRING YOU
ALL UP BY
THE NECK!!

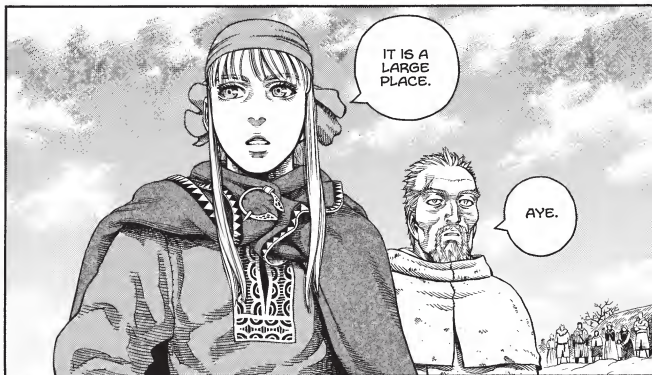
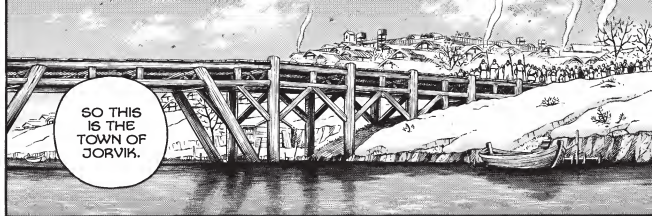
**HEAVE...
HOOO...**

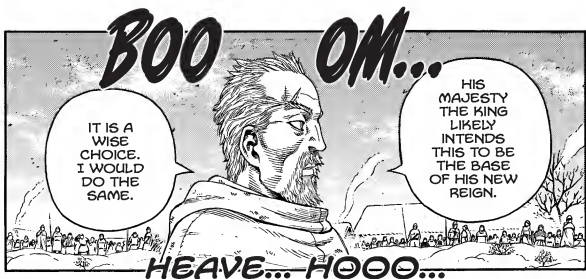


NO TRAFFIC
OVER THE
BRIDGE
UNTIL ALL
THE SHIPS
HAVE
PASSED!

BACK
UP,
NOW,
BACK!

MURMUR





IT IS A
WISE
CHOICE.
I WOULD
DO THE
SAME.

HIS
MAJESTY
THE KING
LIKELY
INTENDS
THIS TO BE
THE BASE
OF HIS NEW
REIGN.

HEAVE... HOOO...

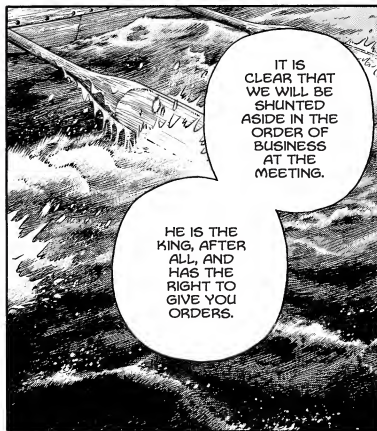


ARE WE
PREPARED
FOR IT?

KING
SWEYN WILL
ATTEMPT
SOMETHING
AT
TOMORROW'S
FEAST.

HMPH...

YOU
WOULD,
WOULD
YOU?



IT IS
CLEAR THAT
WE WILL BE
SHUNTED
ASIDE IN THE
ORDER OF
BUSINESS
AT THE
MEETING.

HE IS THE
KING, AFTER
ALL, AND
HAS THE
RIGHT TO
GIVE YOU
ORDERS.

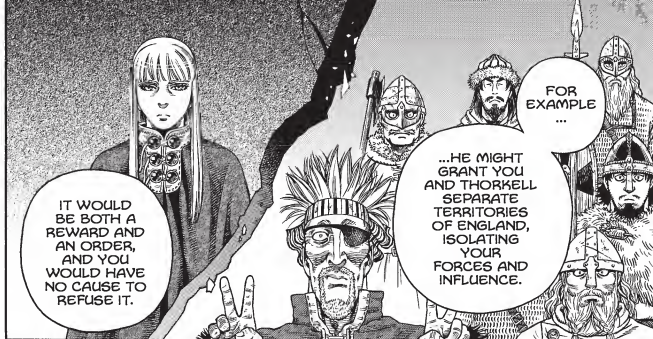


BOOM...
HEAVE

WELL,
NOW...

AS
FOR
THAT...

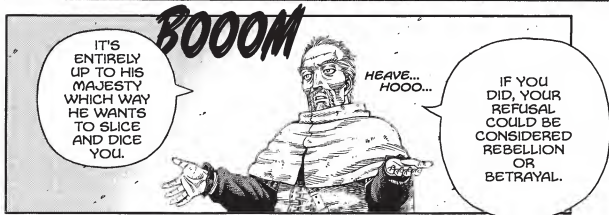
HOOO...



IT WOULD BE BOTH A REWARD AND AN ORDER, AND YOU WOULD HAVE NO CAUSE TO REFUSE IT.

FOR EXAMPLE ...

...HE MIGHT GRANT YOU AND THORKELL SEPARATE TERRITORIES OF ENGLAND, ISOLATING YOUR FORCES AND INFLUENCE.



IT'S ENTIRELY UP TO HIS MAJESTY WHICH WAY HE WANTS TO SLICE AND DICE YOU.

HEAVE... HOOO...

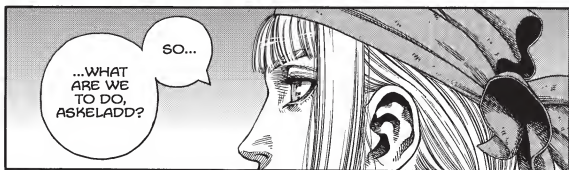
IF YOU DID, YOUR REFUSAL COULD BE CONSIDERED REBELLION OR BETRAYAL.



NO.

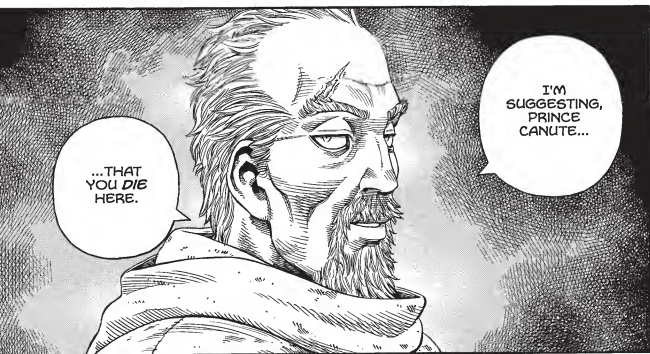
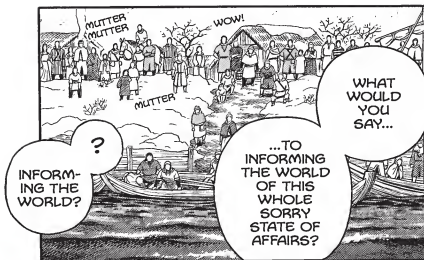
THAT WOULD BE BAD.

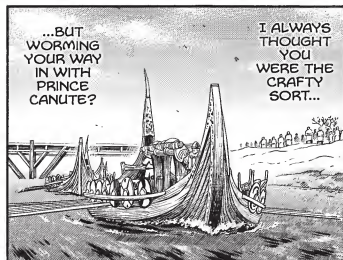
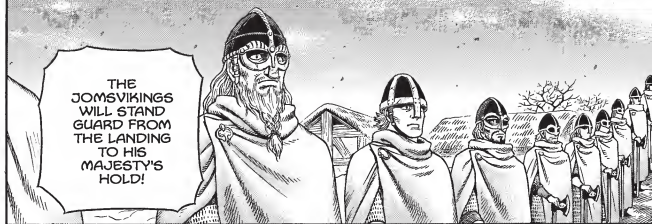
...I DO NOT WANT THORKELL TAKEN AWAY FROM ME.



SO...

...WHAT ARE WE TO DO, ASKELEDD?







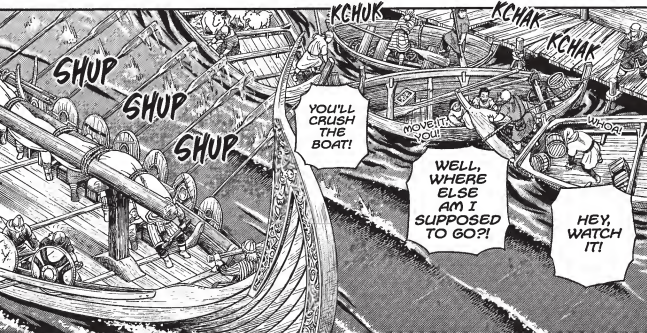
BUT
WHAT
CAN
YOU
DO?

HMPH.



YOU WILL
SHARE
THE
PRINCE'S
FATE.

NO
MATTER
WHAT
YOU HAVE
UP YOUR
SLEEVE,
OUR CARD
TRUMPS
YOURS.



SHUP

SHUP

SHUP

YOU'LL
CRUSH
THE
BOAT!

WELL,
WHERE
ELSE
AM I
SUPPOSED
TO GO?!

HEY,
WATCH
IT!

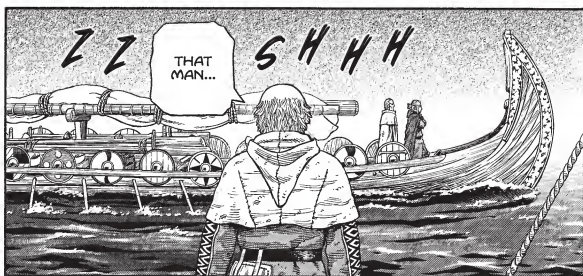
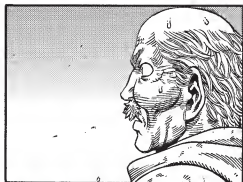
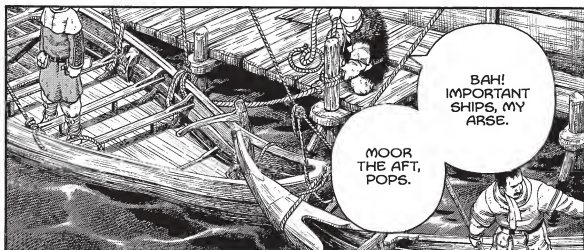
KCHUK

KCHAK

KCHAK

MOVE IT
YOU!

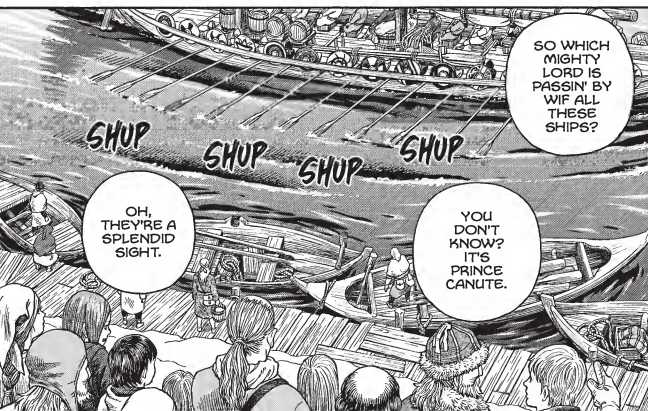
WHOR!





HE'S
THE
PIRATE
WHO
KILLED
THORS!!

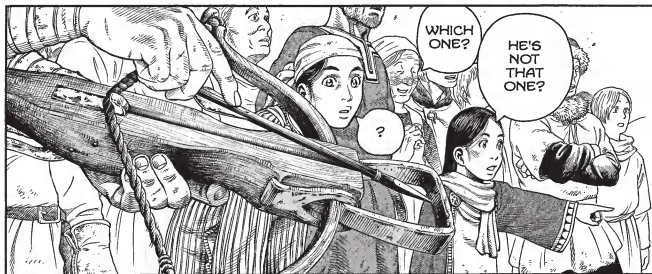
ASKE-
LADD
!!

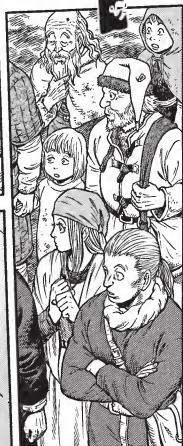
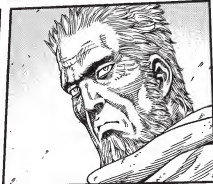
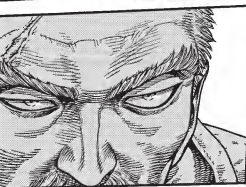
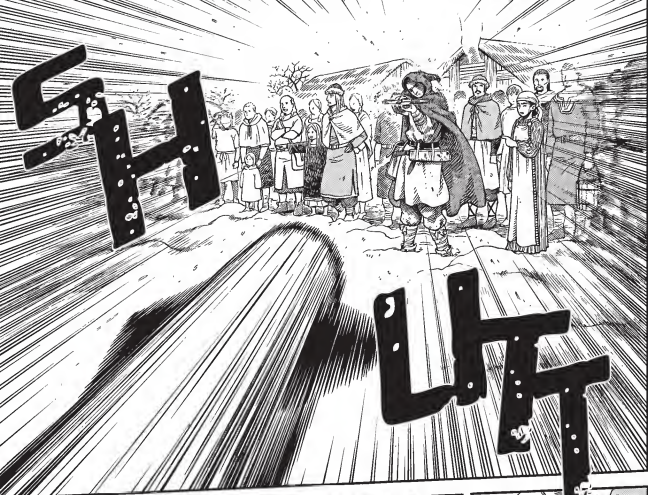


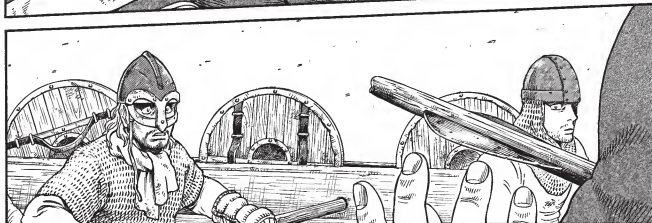
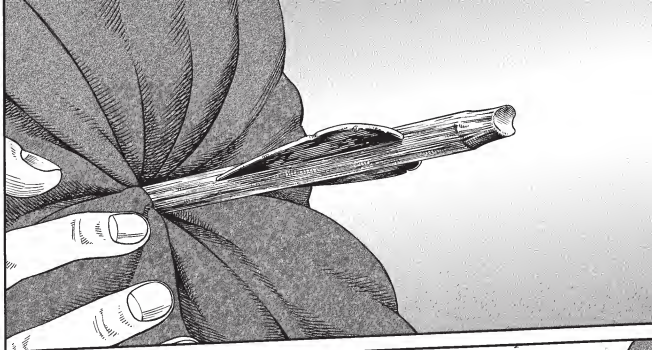
SO WHICH
MIGHTY
LORD IS
PASSIN' BY
WIF ALL
THESE
SHIPS?

OH,
THEY'RE A
SPLENDID
SIGHT.

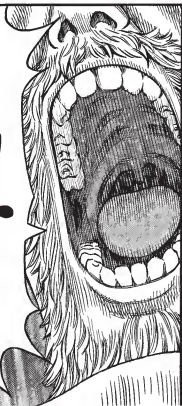
YOU
DON'T
KNOW?
IT'S
PRINCE
CANUTE.







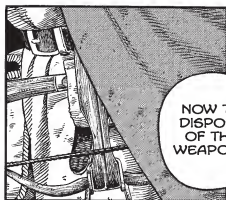
**HE'S
BEEN
SHOT
!!**



HAHH...







NOW TO
DISPOSE
OF THE
WEAPON...



R

A

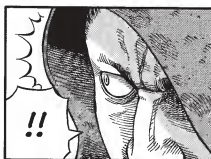
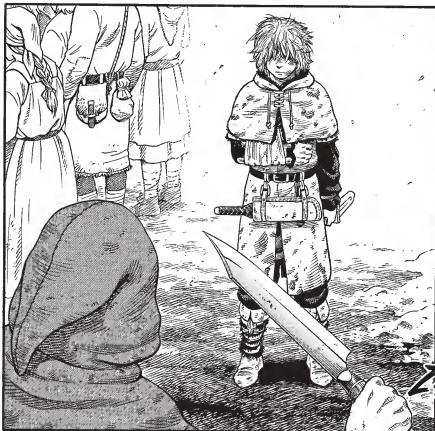
A

HEH!

THAT
WAS
EASY
ENOUGH.

H

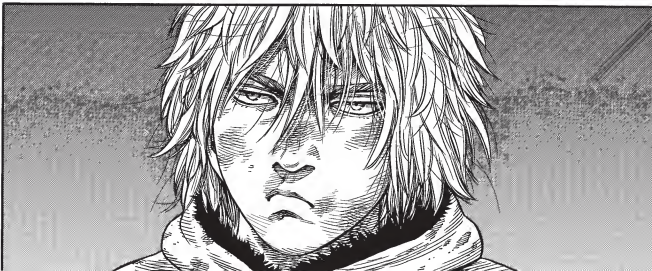
H

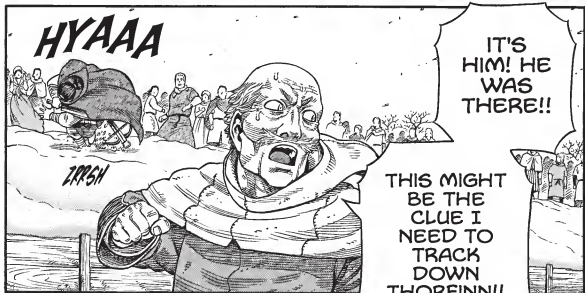
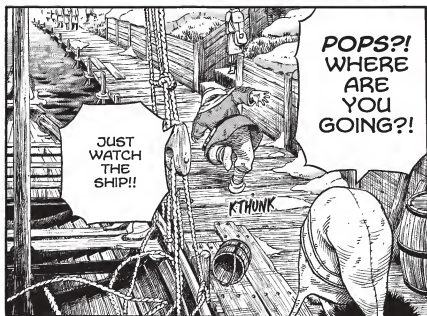


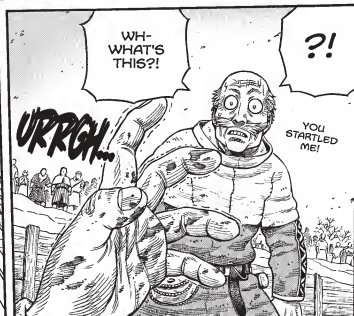
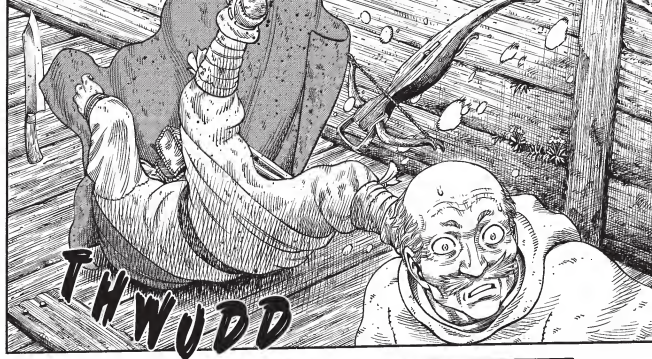
!!

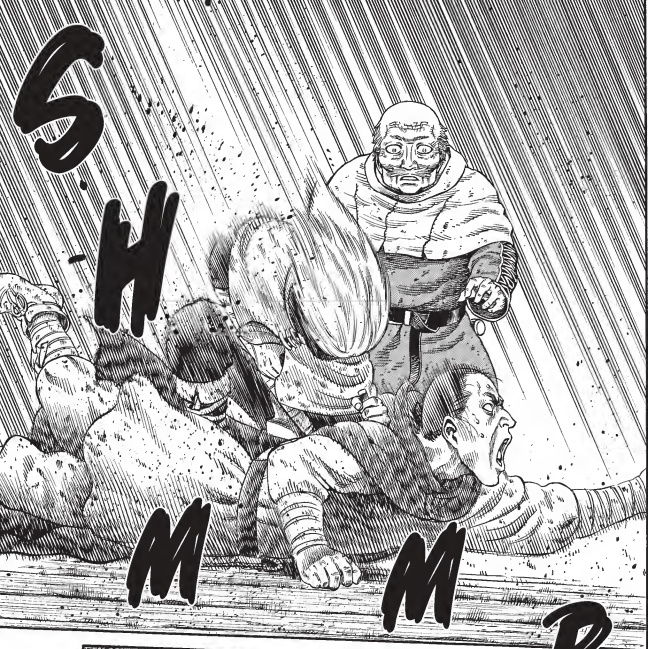


ZSH...





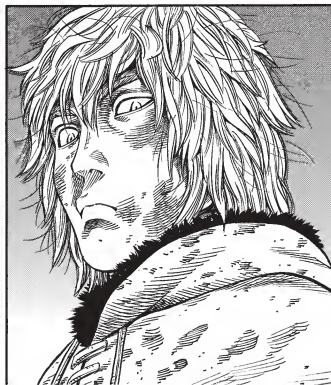


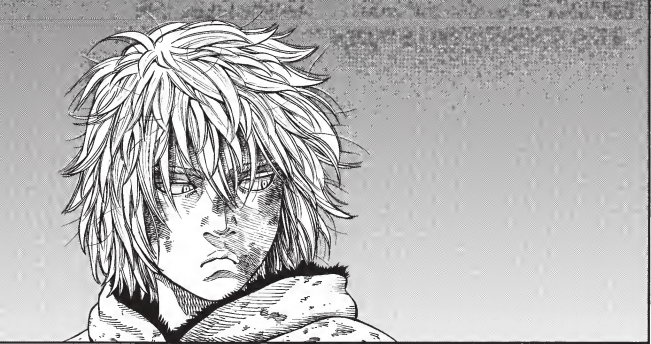




TCH.

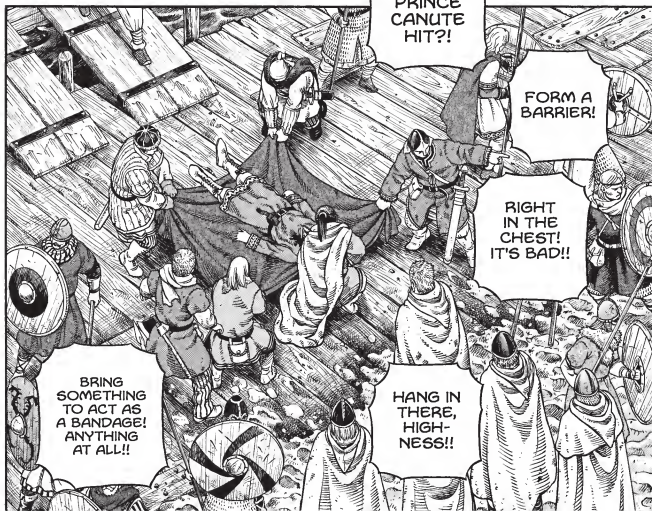
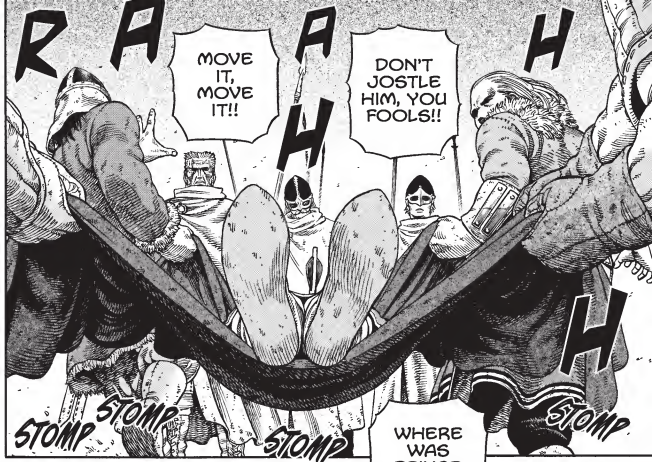
WASTE
OF MY
FUCKING
TIME.

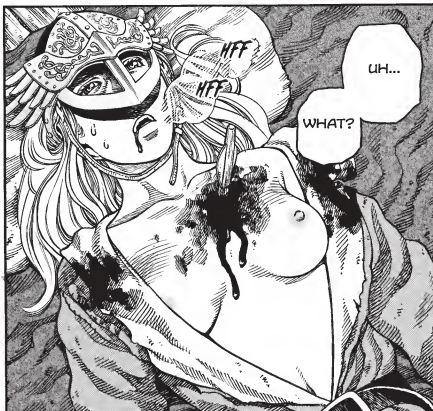
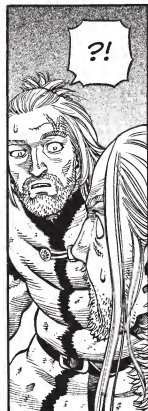
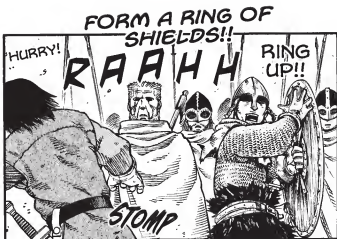
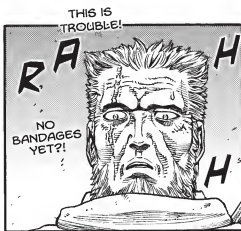


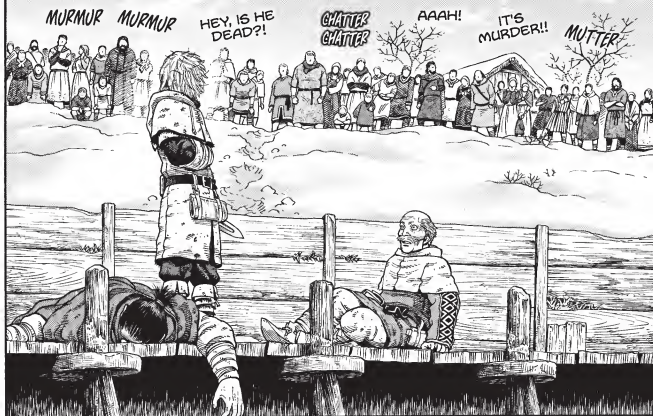


CHAPTER 49: KARLSEFNI









MURMUR MURMUR

HEY, IS HE
DEAD?!

CHATTER
CHATTER

AAAH!

IT'S
MURDER!!

MUTTER



SEIZE
THOSE
MISERABLE
REBELS,
MEN!!

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

THAT'S
IT! YOU
MUST HAVE
BEEN THE
PRINCE'S
ASSAILANTS!!

THIS
WAY!

ZRSHH

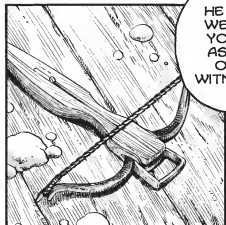


WHAT'S
THE
MEANING
OF
THIS?!

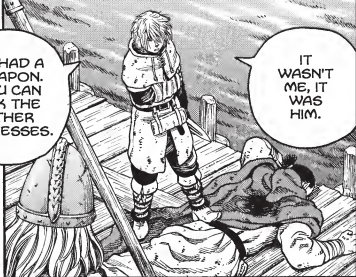
YOU
THERE,
YES,
YOU!!

HEY,
YOU
!!
oo

GAHH



HE HAD A
WEAPON.
YOU CAN
ASK THE
OTHER
WITNESSES.



IT
WASN'T
ME, IT
WAS
HIM.

HAH! A
LIKELY
STORY!

SO YOU
THINK YOU
CAN PIN
THE DEED
ON YOUR
FELLOW
THERE AND
ESCAPE
JUSTICE?!

TWO
KNIVES?

HAND
OVER
YOUR
BLADE!

I-IT
WASN'T
ME...

IS THIS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
SOME
KIND OF
BOW?

THAT'S
THE
WEAPON?



SNAP



YOU'VE
GOT THE
FACE OF A
WICKED MAN.
ANYONE
WOULD
AGREE!!

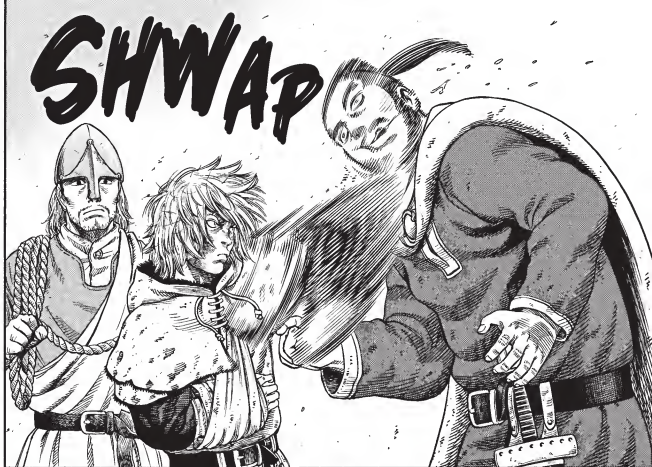
NOT SO!
I CAN
TELL
FROM
YOUR
EYES!

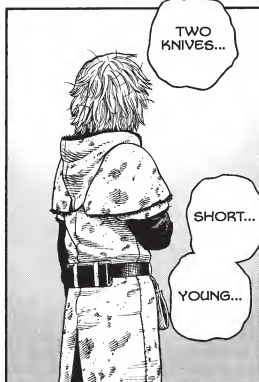
HAH!
THEY'RE
DEAD
INSIDE,
THAT'S
CLEAR TO
ME!

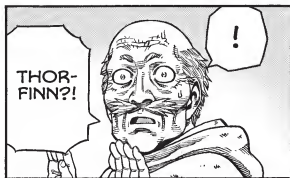


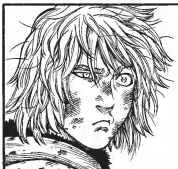
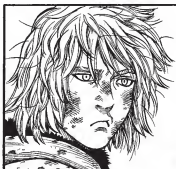
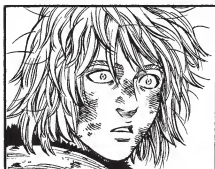
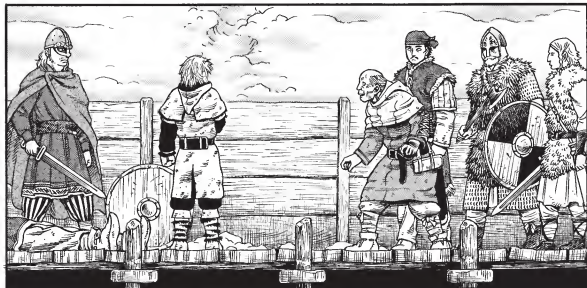
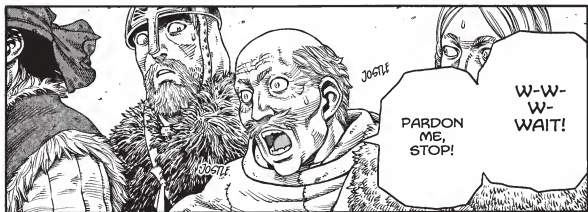
QUIT
MAKING
UP
STORIES,
YOU
SCUM.

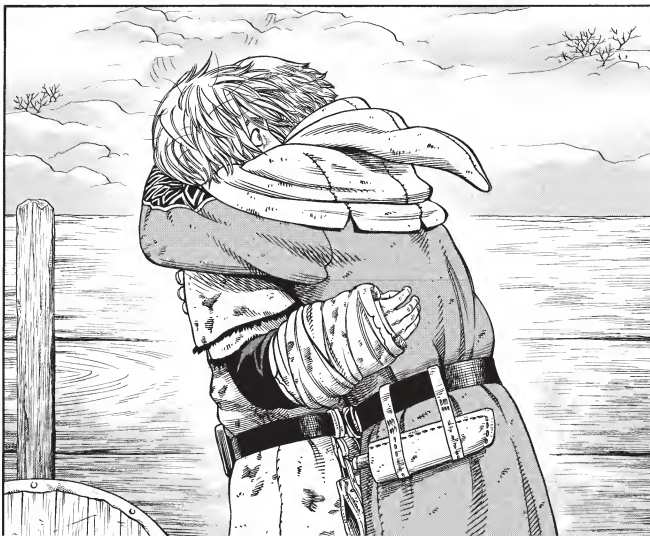
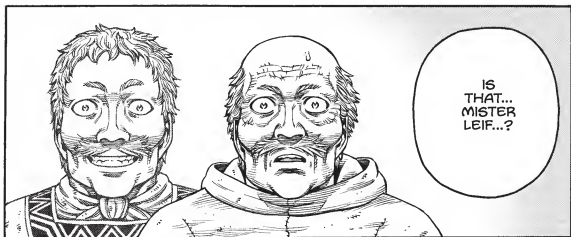
I TOLD
YOU, IT
WASN'T
ME.





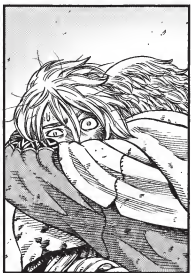






YOU'RE
ALIVE
...!!

OH,
THANK
GOD!!



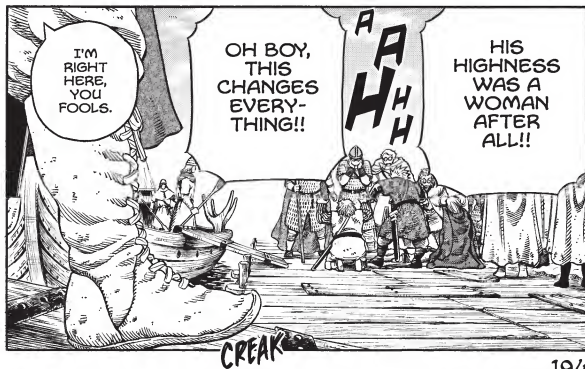
DO YOU
THINK HE'LL
TELL PRINCE
CANUTE
THAT WE
ACCUSED
HIM OF
BEING AN
ASSASSIN?

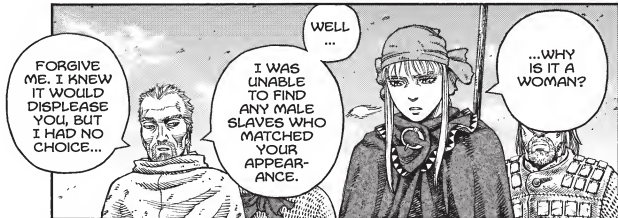
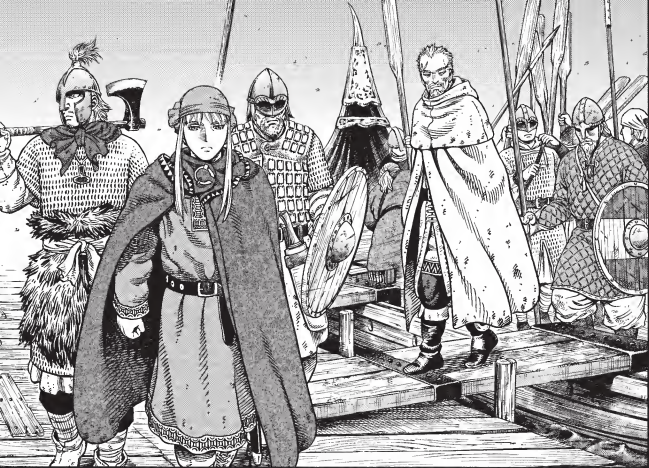
S-SO,
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?

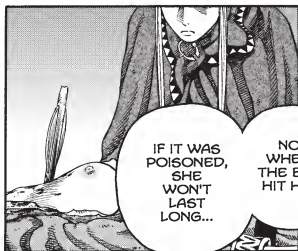


...UH,
THAT'S...
GOOD,
RIGHT...?

...

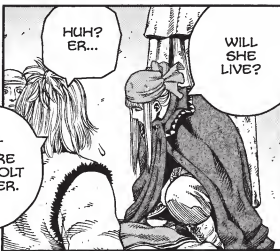






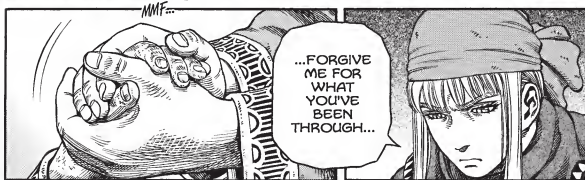
IF IT WAS
POISONED,
SHE
WON'T
LAST
LONG...

NOT
WHERE
THE BOLT
HIT HER.



HUH?
ER...

WILL
SHE
LIVE?



MMF...

...FORGIVE
ME FOR
WHAT
YOU'VE
BEEN
THROUGH...

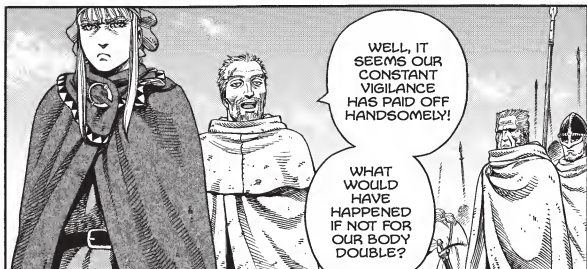
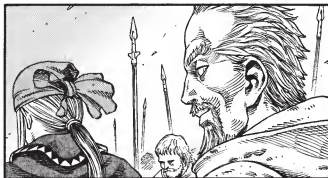


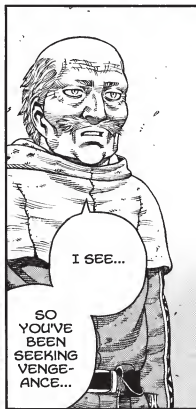
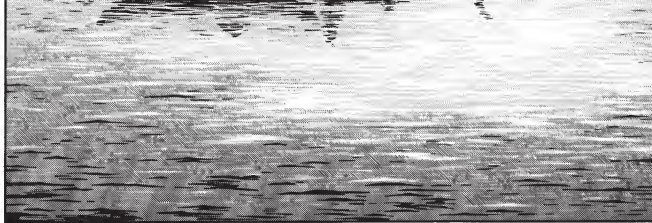
Y-YES,
HIGH-
NESS.

SEE THAT
SHE IS
TREATED
PROPERLY.

DO HER
EVERY
POSSIBLE
RESPECT.



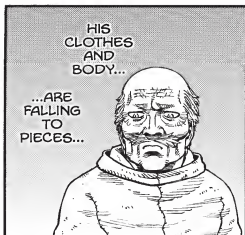






SUCH A
YOUNG BOY
HAS LIVED
ON THE
BATTLEFIELD
FOR SO LONG...

I'VE NO
DOUBT
HE'S
SEEN
HELL...



HIS
CLOTHES
AND
BODY...

...ARE
FALLING
TO
PIECES...



IF I AM TO
SAVE HIM, I
MUST IGNORE
THE ELEVEN
YEARS
THAT HAVE
HAPPENED...

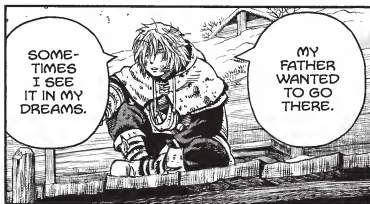
NO.

I MUST
STOP THIS.



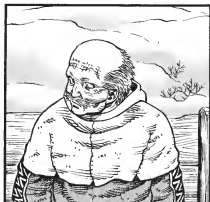
MISTER
LEIF...

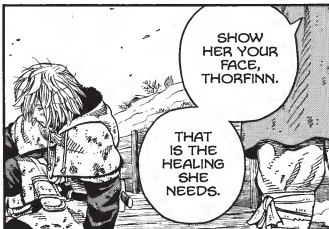
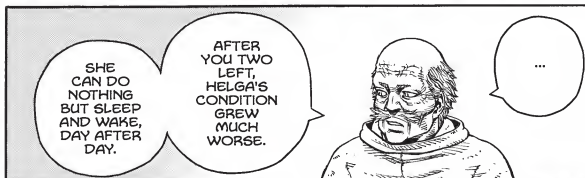
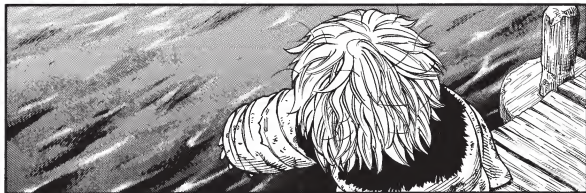
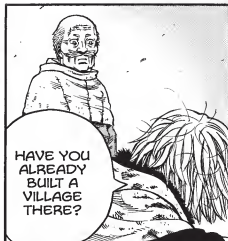
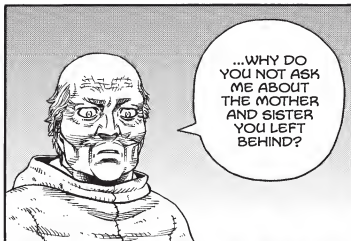
WHAT IS
HAPPENING
NOW...
IN
VINLAND?



SOME-
TIMES
I SEE
IT IN MY
DREAMS.

MY
FATHER
WANTED
TO GO
THERE.







I DIDN'T
ASK YOU
ABOUT
THAT!

SHUT
UP
ALREADY!

YOU'VE
GOT THREE
LITTLE
NEPHEWS
AND
NIECES...

YLVA IS
A MOTHER
NOW.

CREAK



THAT'S
MY JOB,
FOR
SOME
REASON.

I'M IN THE
PRINCE'S
PERSONAL
GUARD.

HEY.

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING,
THORFINN?

CREAK

CREAK



YOU'VE
DONE
ENOUGH!
COME
WITH ME!

COME
BACK
HOME
WITH ME,
THORFINN.



WHAT
WOULD
YOU
KNOW?

...

ENOUGH?



HUH?

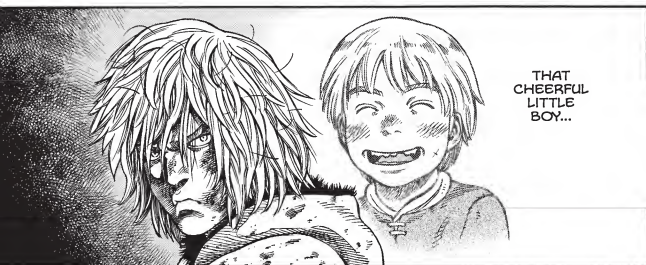
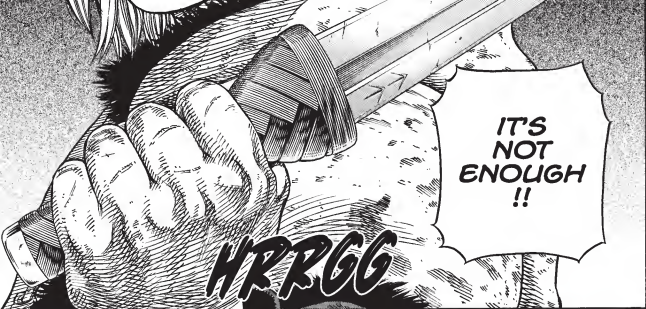
WHAT
THE HELL
DO YOU
KNOW...

...ABOUT
WHAT
I'VE BEEN
THROUGH?

AS
LONG
AS
ASKE-
LADD...

...I
HAVEN'T
DONE
ENOUGH!!

...LIVES,
BREATHES,
EATS, AND
SHITS...





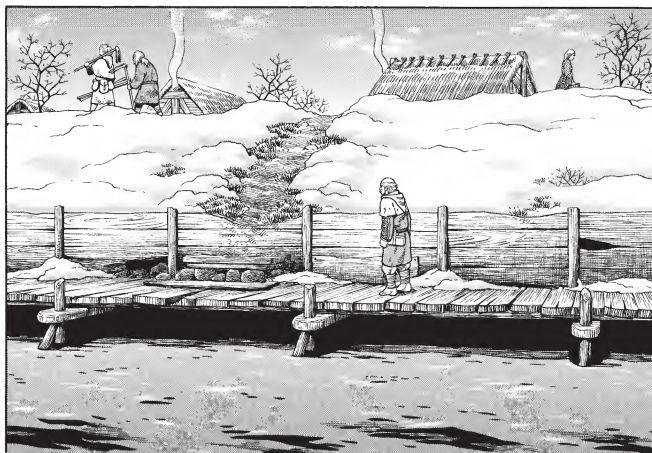
COME
BACK TO
ICELAND
WITH
ME!

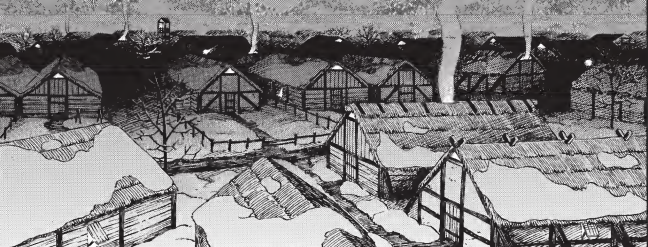
I WILL
STAY
IN THIS
TOWN
UNTIL YOU
CHANGE
YOUR
MIND!



COME
HOME!

**THOR-
FINN!**





NO, IT
WAS
ONLY A
STAND-
IN.

THEY
KILLED
THE
PRINCE?!

CAN'T
EVEN GET
A GOOD
NIGHT'S
SLEEP
WITHOUT
KEEPING AN
EYE OPEN.

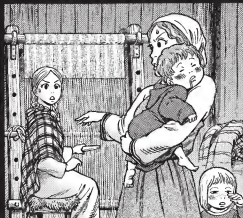
AHH, IT
MUST
BE HARD
TO BE A
NOBLEMAN.



NO, I MEAN
WHO WAS
REALLY
RESPONSIBLE?

WAS
IT THE
ENGLISH?

WHO
WAS
PULLING
THE
STRINGS
?



THEY
ALREADY
KILLED
THE
ASSASSIN.



...OUT-
WITTED
YOU,
FLOKI.

ASKE-
LADD...



HMPH.

HE'S A
CLEVER
ONE.



YES...

I BEG
YOUR
FORGIVE-
NESS...
YOUR
MAJESTY
...



AND HE'S
BROUGHT
A CURSE
UPON THIS
CITY.

VINLAND SAGA MAP

THORFINN'S TRAVELS



YORK (JORVIK)

A crucial trading town under Danish control, the center of commerce in Northern England.



LEIF



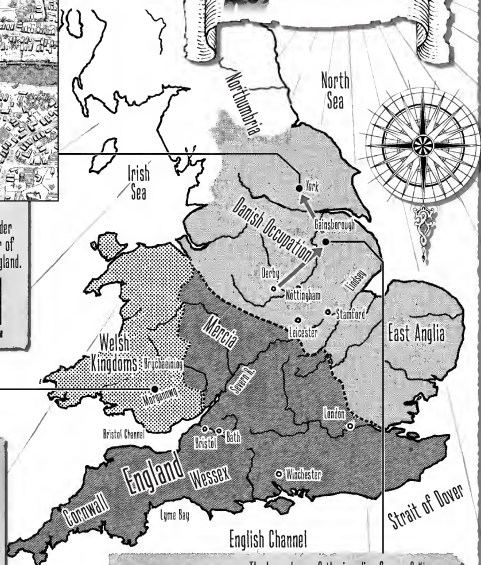
THORFINN

WALES

Askeladd spent his childhood in Denmark, but he lived here as a young man.



ASKELADD



GAINSBOROUGH

The home base of the invading force of King Sweyn, Canute's father.



BJORN



KING SWEYN



CANUTE

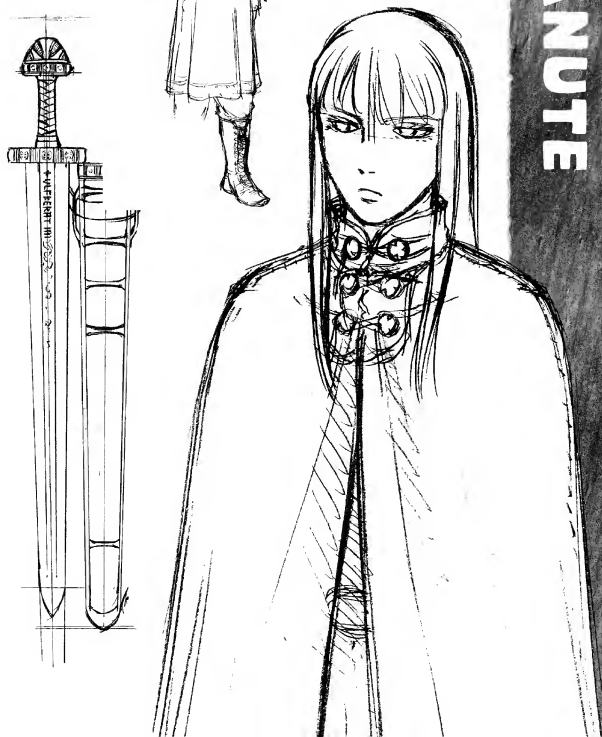


THORKELL



SUPPLEMENTAL
DESIGNS

CANUTE



The Viking warriors hated being shamed more than anything else. Those who shrank away from violence and death, or did not answer insult with vengeance, were considered cowards. No warrior could survive being branded a coward. He would be excluded from Viking society. So they fought with their lives to protect their pride. I'm afraid of being hurt and dying. Honestly, I'd rather lose my pride than get into a fistfight. If it means being shunned, then so be it. I'd rather have it that way.

Pride above all: one facet of the Viking mindset that I truly hate.

**MAKOTO
YUKIMURA**



**VINLAND
SAGA**



ヴァンランド・サガ

WINLAND SAGA

the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) and the *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM).

These two journals are the most widely cited in the field of medicine. The *JAMA* is published by the American Medical Association (AMA) and the *NEJM* is published by the Massachusetts Medical Society.

The *JAMA* and the *NEJM* are both peer-reviewed journals. This means that the articles published in these journals have been reviewed by other experts in the field of medicine.

The *JAMA* and the *NEJM* are both highly respected journals. This is because they publish high-quality research and clinical studies.

The *JAMA* and the *NEJM* are both highly influential journals. This is because they are widely read by doctors and other healthcare professionals.

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The *JAMA* and the *NEJM* are both highly influential journals. This is because they are widely read by doctors and other healthcare professionals.

CHAPTER 50: PLOT

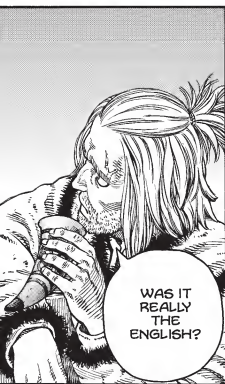




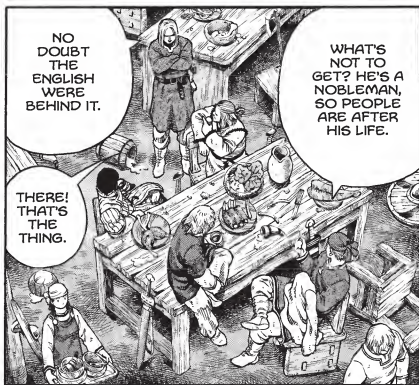


...WHY
WAS THAT
ASSASSIN
TRYIN' TO
KILL THE
PRINCE
TO BEGIN
WITH?

SO
WHAT
I DON'T
GET
IS...



WAS IT
REALLY
THE
ENGLISH?



NO
DOUBT
THE
ENGLISH
WERE
BEHIND IT.

WHAT'S
NOT TO
GET? HE'S A
NOBLEMAN,
SO PEOPLE
ARE AFTER
HIS LIFE.

THERE!
THAT'S
THE
THING.



WELL, KING
SWEYN'S
HERE IN
THIS TOWN,
AIN'T HE?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

IF THE
ENGLISH
WANTED
TO TAKE
OUT
ANYONE,
WOULDN'T
IT BE HIM?



BESIDES,
THERE ARE
TWO PRINCES
TO TAKE
OVER THE
THRONE, SO
WHY BOTHER
WITH THE
SECOND
ONE?

IF YOU
WANT TO
TURN THE
TIDE OF THE
WAR, THE
KING'S YOUR
TARGET.

NOW
THAT
YOU
MENTION
IT...

AH!



DON'T YOU
GO STICKIN'
YOUR NOSE
WHERE
IT DON'T
BELONG.

SO I'M
SAYING, IT
WAS THE
WORK OF
SOMEONE
WHO STOOD
TO GAIN
BY PRINCE
CANUTE'S
DEATH.

MAYBE THE
KING'S GUARD
WAS JUST SO
TIGHT THAT
THEY CHOSE
AN EASIER
TARGET?

WHO
WOULD
THAT
BE?



HAIL!

HAVE
YOU
HEARD
THIS
ONE?



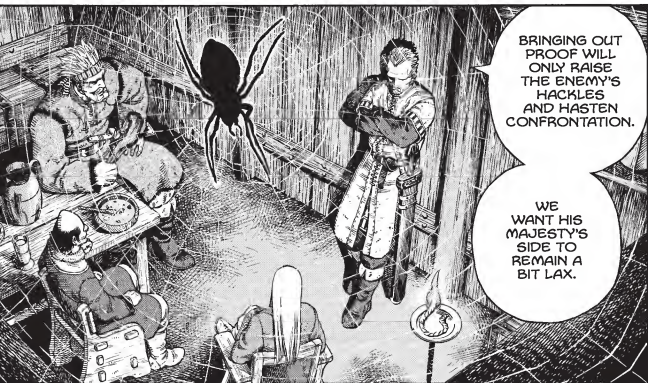
...THIS IS
NOTHING
MORE
THAN A
RUMOR...

NOW
KEEP IN
MIND...



...IS EXACTLY
WHAT WE
WANT: NOT
TOO HOT,
NOT TOO
COLD, JUST
RIGHT.

"NOTHING
MORE
THAN A
RUMOR"...



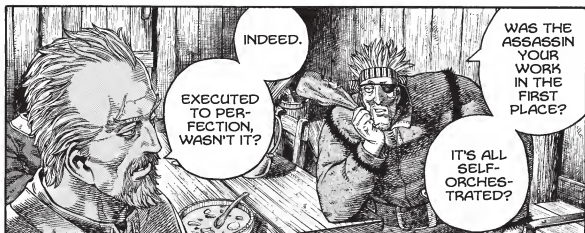
BRINGING OUT
PROOF WILL
ONLY RAISE
THE ENEMY'S
HACKLES
AND HASTEN
CONFRONTATION.

WE
WANT HIS
MAJESTY'S
SIDE TO
REMAIN A
BIT LAX.



SO IT'S JUST
A RUMOR
THAT "THE
KING WANTS
TO KILL
PRINCE
CANUTE."

A RUMOR
THAT
HAPPENS
TO BE
TRUE.





NOW THE KING CANNOT GIVE ME ORDERS THAT ARE MEANT TO DISADVANTAGE ME.

I SEE...



IF HE TAKES THORKELL AWAY FROM YOU, OR SENDS US INTO FIERCE COMBAT, IT WILL ONLY FAN THE FLAMES OF THE RUMORS.

EXACTLY, YOUR HIGHNESS.

HE CANNOT MAKE HIS MOVE BEFORE THE ARMY OFFICERS.



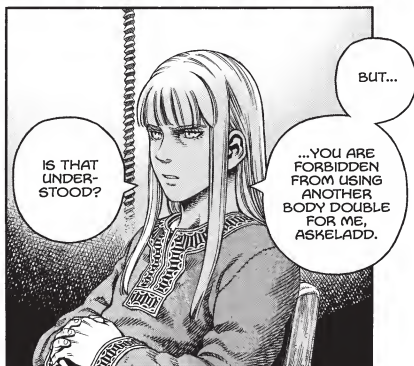
HE CANNOT SIMPLY DISREGARD THE RUMORS SWIRLING AMONG HIS SOLDIERS.

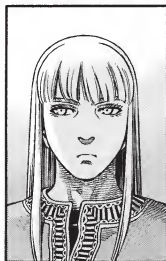
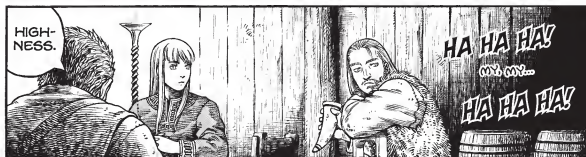
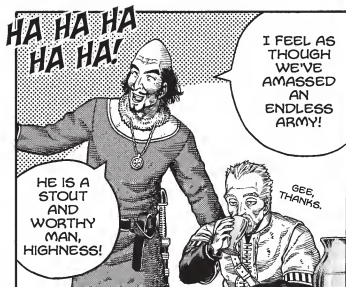
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, A KING DEPENDS ON THE FAVOR OF HIS PEOPLE.

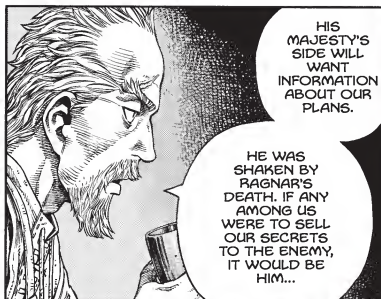
AND NEEDLESS TO SAY, HIS MAJESTY KING SWEYN IS A CLEVER MAN.

PARTICULARLY CHARGES OF FILICIDE...

...

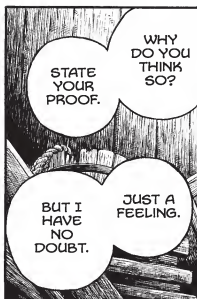






HIS
MAJESTY'S
SIDE WILL
WANT
INFORMATION
ABOUT OUR
PLANS.

HE WAS
SHAKEN BY
RAGNAR'S
DEATH. IF ANY
AMONG US
WERE TO SELL
OUR SECRETS
TO THE ENEMY,
IT WOULD BE
HIM...



STATE
YOUR
PROOF.

WHY
DO YOU
THINK
SO?

BUT I
HAVE
NO
DOUBT.

JUST A
FEELING.



...



AIN'T
THAT
BAD
NEWS,
THEN?

THEY'LL
KNOW
EVERYTHING
WE JUST
SAID.

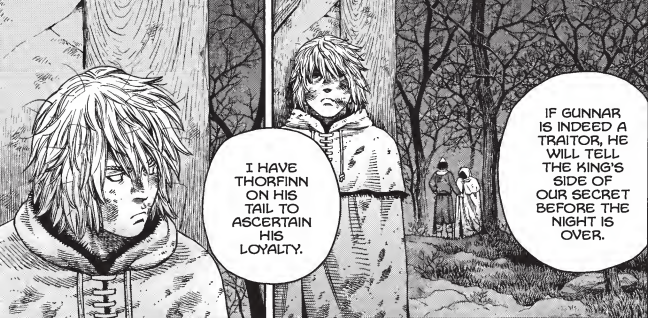
NOT A
PROBLEM.

I DIDN'T
SAY
ANYTHING
I DIDN'T
WANT
THEM TO
KNOW.



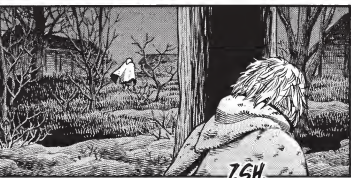
HE'LL
MAINTAIN
ALLEGIANCE
WITH BOTH
SIDES,
WAITING TO
SEE THE
BALANCE
TILT...

DO YOU
NOT
SUSPECT
THAT LORD
GUNNAR
IS THE
SORT TO
PLAY THIS
GAME?



I HAVE
THORFINN
ON HIS
TAIL TO
ASCERTAIN
HIS
LOYALTY.

IF GUNNAR
IS INDEED A
TRAITOR, HE
WILL TELL
THE KING'S
SIDE OF
OUR SECRET
BEFORE THE
NIGHT IS
OVER.

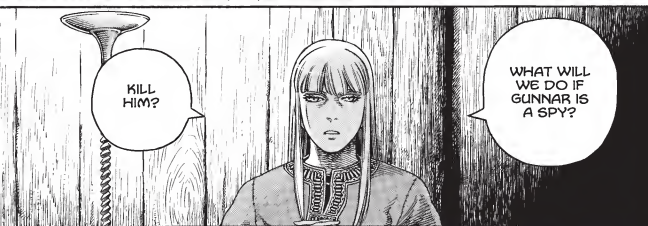


ZSH.



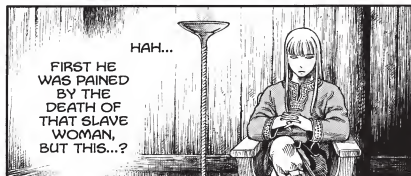
TELL
HIM
AT ONCE.

GO.



KILL
HIM?

WHAT WILL
WE DO IF
GUNNAR IS
A SPY?



HAH...

FIRST HE
WAS PAINED
BY THE
DEATH OF
THAT SLAVE
WOMAN,
BUT THIS...?





HE WILL
BE A USEFUL
MEANS FOR
US TO SEND
MESSAGES
TO THE
KING.

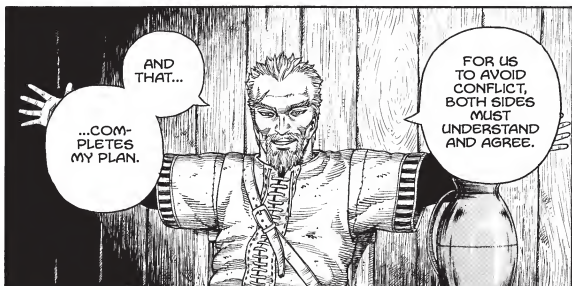
LET
GUNNAR
GO FOR
NOW.



HE WILL
TRUST
INFORMATION
COMING
FROM HIS
OWN SPY...

...AND HE
WILL BE
AT EASE.

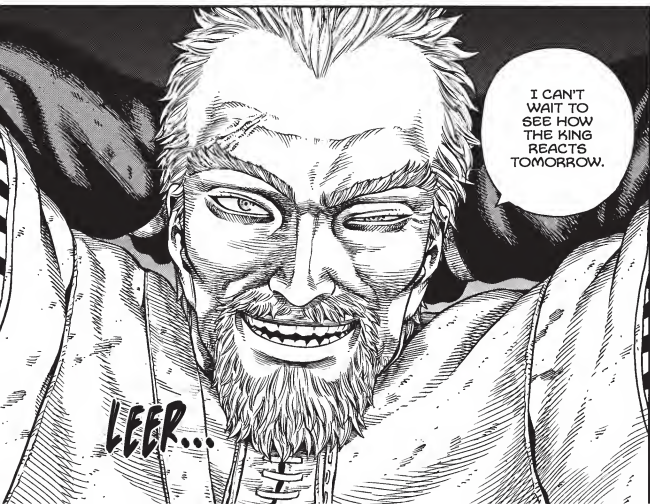
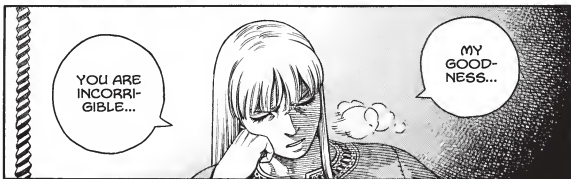
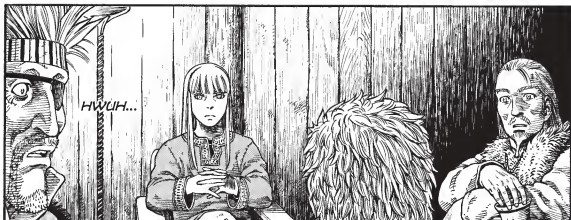
THROUGH HIM,
WE CAN LET THE
ENEMY KNOW
THAT WE DO
NOT SEEK A
CONFRONTATION
IN THE SHORT
TERM.

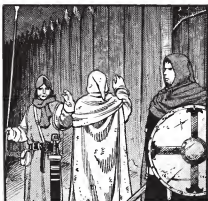


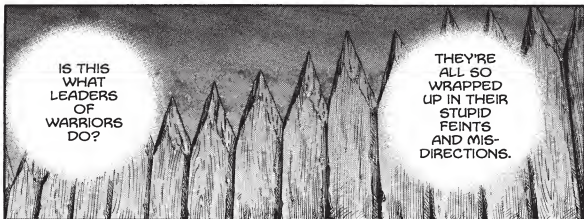
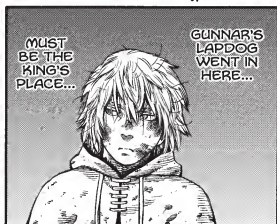
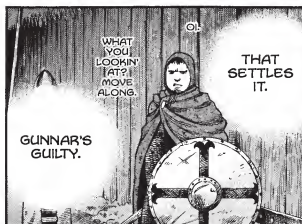
AND
THAT...

...COM-
PLETES
MY PLAN.

FOR US
TO AVOID
CONFLICT,
BOTH SIDES
MUST
UNDERSTAND
AND AGREE.







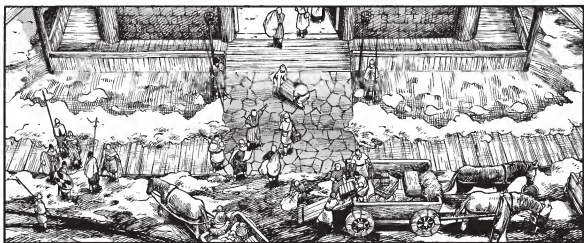
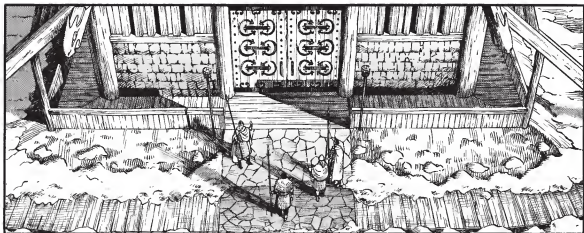


BAH.

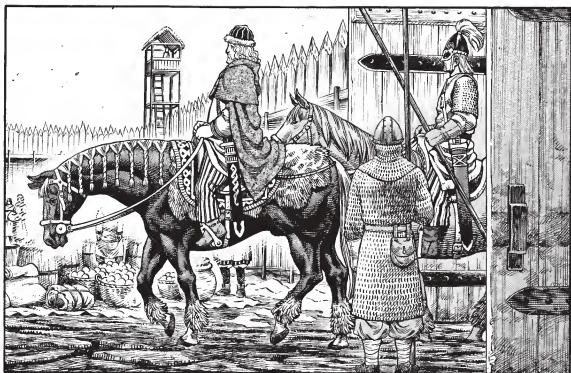
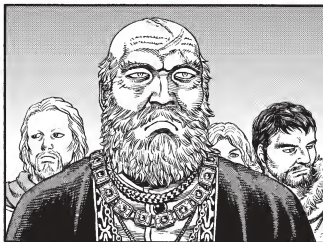
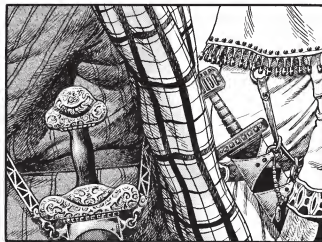
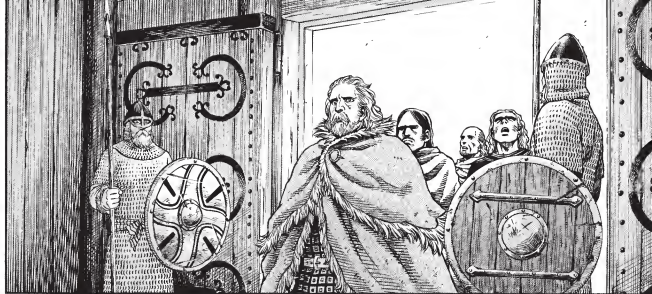
CREEPY-
LOOKING
HOUSE.

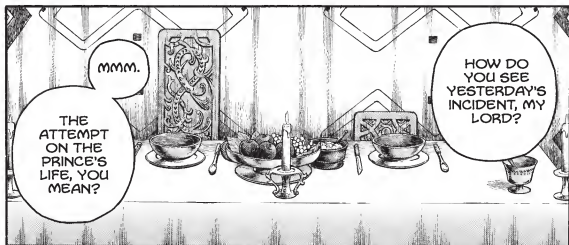
CHAPTER 51: MISCALCULATION









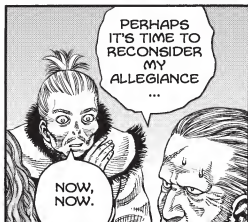




INDEED.

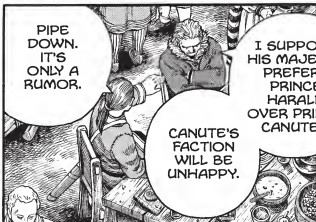
HIS
MAJESTY
IS ELDERLY,
AND THE
TIME IS
NIGH TO
SETTLE ON
A RIGHTFUL
SUCCESSOR.

IT IS A
DREADFUL
TOPIC... BUT
WE CANNOT
OVERLOOK
THE
RUMORS.



PERHAPS
IT'S TIME TO
RECONSIDER
MY
ALLEGIANCE
...

NOW,
NOW.



PIPE
DOWN.
IT'S
ONLY A
RUMOR.

I SUPPOSE
HIS MAJESTY
PREFERS
PRINCE
HARALD
OVER PRINCE
CANUTE...

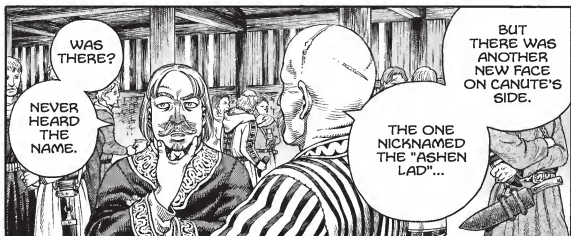
CANUTE'S
FACTION
WILL BE
UNHAPPY.



HE'S
FAR TOO
MUCH FOR
CANUTE TO
HANDLE.

BUT HE'S
A MAN
UNSUITED
FOR POLITICS.

CANUTE HAS
THE GREAT
THORKELL ON
HIS SIDE. THAT
MORE THAN
MAKES UP FOR
THE LOSS OF
RAGNAR.

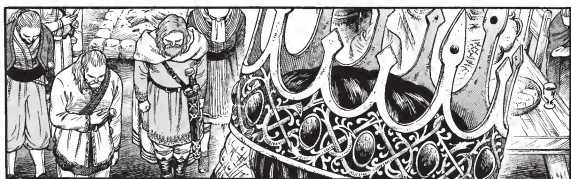


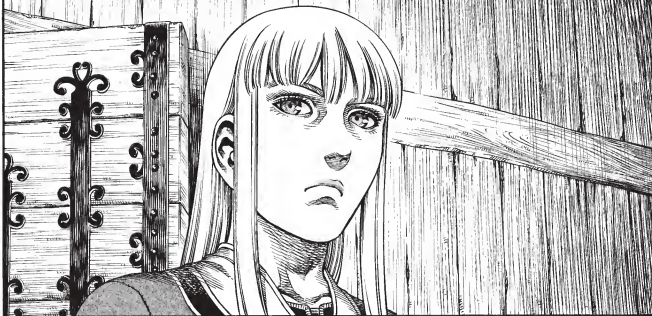
WAS
THERE?

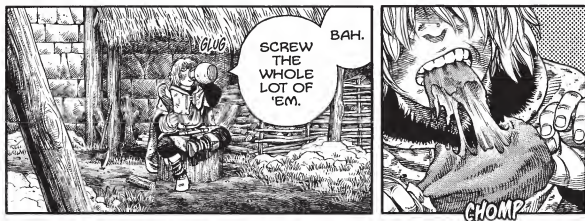
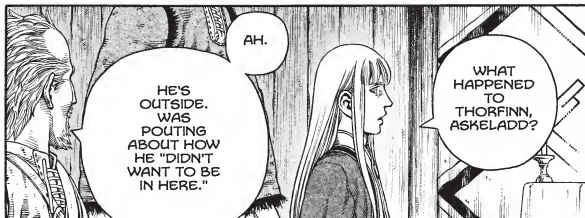
NEVER
HEARD
THE
NAME.

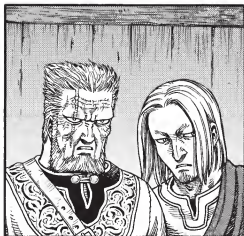
BUT
THERE WAS
ANOTHER
NEW FACE
ON CANUTE'S
SIDE.

THE ONE
NICKNAMED
THE "ASHEN
LAD"...



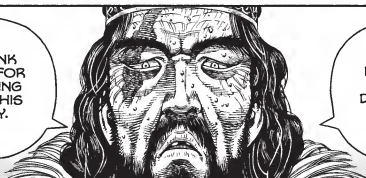






THANK
YOU FOR
JOINING
ME THIS
DAY.

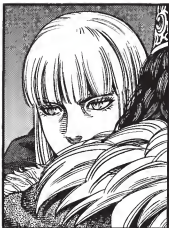
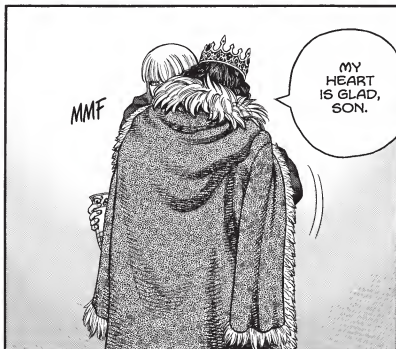
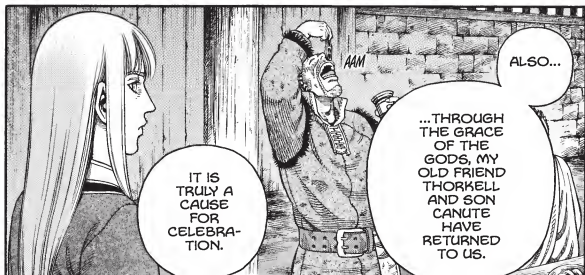
LEADERS
OF
DENMARK.



THIS
JOYOUS
DAY WAS
ONLY MADE
POSSIBLE
THROUGH
YOUR
PROWESS
AND
VALIANCE.

OUR LONG
HELD DREAM
HAS AT LAST
COME TO
FRUITION:
I AM FINALLY
KING OVER
ENGLAND.









**I'VE
GOT
HIM
!!**



IT'S
PROOF HE
HASN'T
MATCHED
MY PLAN
YET. IN A
BATTLE
OF WITS,
I CAN
MAINTAIN
THE
LEAD.

THE
KING'S
REACTION
IS WELL
WITHIN
MY
RANGE
OF
EXPECTA-
TIONS.



SORRY,
OLD
FELLOW.
YOU'LL BE
DRAWING
THE SHORT
STRAW
FROM NOW
ON.

JUST
LOOK AT
FLOKI'S
FACE.

HEE
HEE!

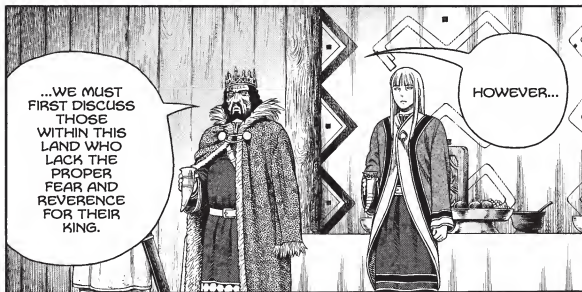


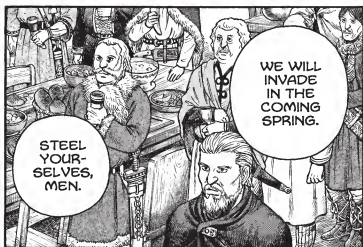
MY
PIECES
ARE IN
PLACE.

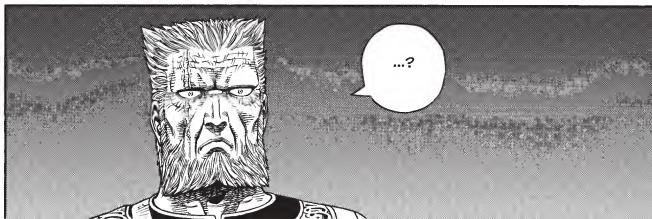
I
CONTROL
THIS
BATTLE.

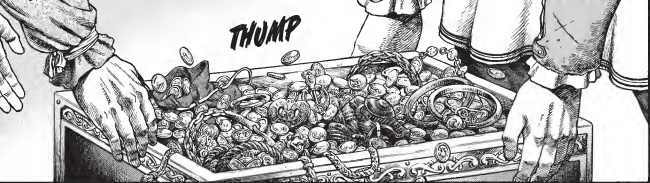
I
CAN
DO
THIS!







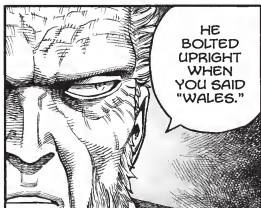






ACCEPT
YOUR
REWARD.

IN RE-
COGNITION
OF YOUR
DEEDS, YOU
ARE HEREBY
GRANTED
SILVER AND
LANDS.



HE
BOLTED
UPRIGHT
WHEN
YOU SAID
"WALES."

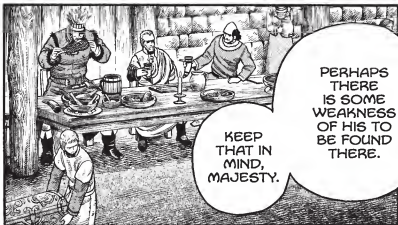


HE WAS
EARLIER,
FOR
JUST A
SECOND.

HE
SEEMS
UNFAZED
TO ME.



HMM...



KEEP
THAT IN
MIND,
MAJESTY.

PERHAPS
THERE
IS SOME
WEAKNESS
OF HIS TO
BE FOUND
THERE.



I'M
SHOWIN'
MY FANKS
TO THE
GODS OF
PROFF-
PERITY.

QUIT
SCARF-
ING YOUR
FOOD, IT'S
UNBECOM-
ING.

GHUBBUP

...SHIT!!

WHAT
THE HELL
IS SWEYN
PLOTING?!

DO YOU
INTEND TO
GROW EVEN
MORE, YOU
GREAT
LOUT?



AND
EVEN
IF HE
KNEW, HE
WOULDN'T
MOBILIZE
ALL
OF HIS
FORCES
JUST TO
PUNISH
ME.

I'VE
NEVER
TOLD
FLOKI
ABOUT
IT.

BUT
NO,
HE
CAN'T.

HE
KNOWS
ABOUT
MY
CONNECTION
TO
WALES...

SO IT'S
MERE
COINCIDENCE...

BUT
DOES IT
MATTER
THE
CAUSE
OR
REASON?

WALES
WILL
BE SET
TO THE
TORCH
IN THE
SPRING!!
DAMN IT!



I CAN'T
PLAN ON
BATTLE!

WE STILL
NEED
TIME TO
SWAY THE
CHIEFTAINS
TO OUR
CAUSE...

THINK!!
THERE'S
NO TIME!
WHAT CAN
I DO BY
SPRING?!

THE KING'S
ASSASSINS
MIGHT MAKE
ANOTHER
ATTEMPT ON
THE PRINCE
IN ALL THE
CHAOS.

IS IT
POSSIBLE
TO GET THE
ENGLISH
BACK TO
THEIR
FEET?!

DO I HAVE
THE PRINCE
RAISE HIS
FLAG IN
REBELLION?

NO, NOT
YET. THE
DIFFERENCE
IN STRENGTH
IS TOO GREAT.
IN ANY CASE,
WALES WILL
END UP A
BATTLE-
GROUND.

DAMN IT
ALL, THE
ONLY
STRENGTH I
CAN COUNT
ON IS
THORKELL'S
FIVE
HUNDRED!





THAT'S
WHERE YOU
SCAMPED
OFF TO
WHEN I WAS
ON YOUR
TRAIL.

MUNCH

SPEAKING
OF
WALES...



WHY
WOULD
THE WELSH
TAKE THE
SIDE OF A
DANE LIKE
YOU?

WHAT
KIND OF
TRICK DID
YOU PULL
THERE?



MRG
MRG



...MY
MOTHER'S
GRAVE IS
THERE.

MAKE MINE
WELL-DONE,
PLEASE.



THAT
LAND
IS MY
HOME.

IT IS MY
COUNTRY.



AYE.

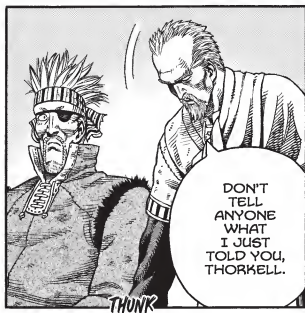
NO
SHIT?

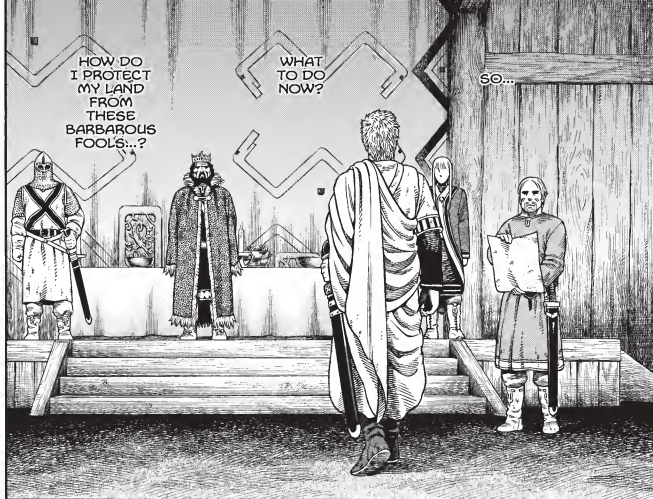
SO YOUR
SLAVE
MOTHER
WAS
WELSH,
THEN?



MY
MOTHER
LOVED
HER
LAND.

THE LAND
IS POOR,
BUT THE
PEOPLE
ARE RICH IN
PRIDE AND
SPIRIT.





HOW DO
I PROTECT
MY LAND
FROM
THESE
BARBAROUS
FOOLS...?

WHAT
TO DO
NOW?

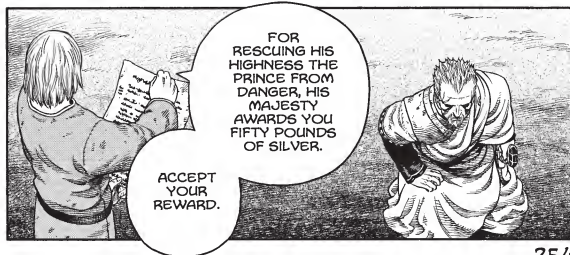
SO...



ASKELADD...

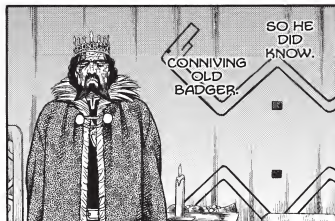
HE
MUST BE
UNNERVED
BY THIS
NEWS.

I KNOW
THAT HE
HOLDS
SOME
CONNECTION
TO WALES.



FOR
RESCUING HIS
HIGHNESS THE
PRINCE FROM
DANGER, HIS
MAJESTY
AWARDS YOU
FIFTY POUNDS
OF SILVER.

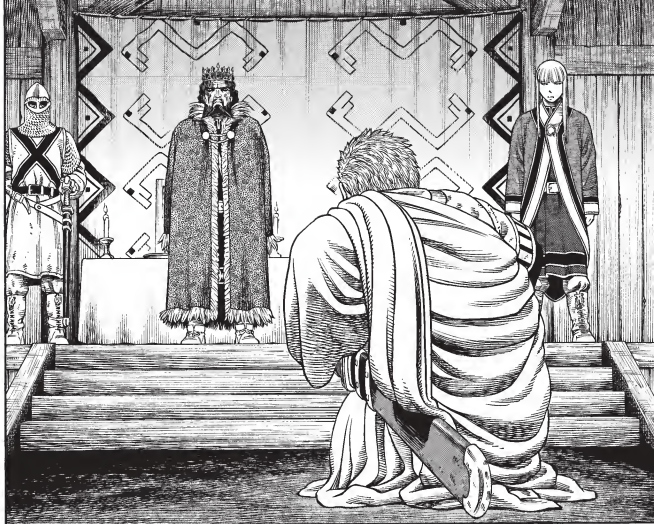
ACCEPT
YOUR
REWARD.





CHAPTER 52:
THE HERO RETURNS





ARE YOU
GOING TO
DASH IT
ALL ON
THE ROCKS
HERE AND
NOW?!

YOUR
ENTIRE
PLAN WAS
MEANT
TO AVOID
FRICTION
WITH THE
KING.



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
ASKELADD?!

IS THAT
HOW
PRECIOUS
THE LAND
OF WALES
IS TO
YOU?



NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT...

WHISPER

I'VE
SEEN
HIM
BEFORE.

MUTTER...

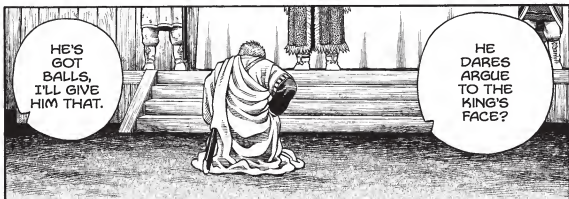
SO
THAT'S
ASKELADD.

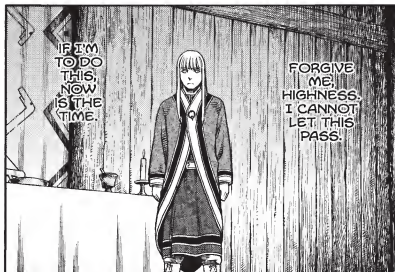
USED
TO WORK
WITH
LORD
FLOKI A
LOT...



HE'S
GOT
BALLS,
I'LL GIVE
HIM THAT.

HE
DARES
ARGUE
TO THE
KING'S
FACE?





IF I'M
TO DO
THIS,
NOW
IS THE
TIME.

FORGIVE
ME,
HIGHNESS.
I CANNOT
LET THIS
PASS.



PEER



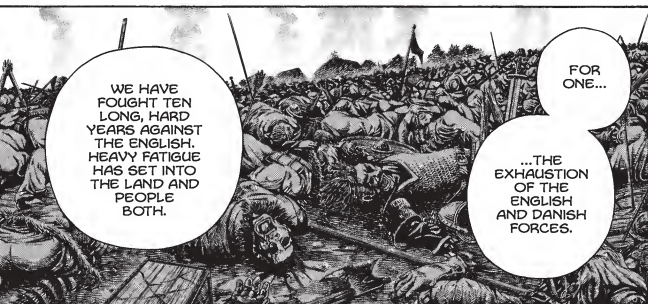
IF I CAN TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF
THAT, I MIGHT
HAVE A CHANCE
AT STOPPING
THE INVASION
OF WALES.

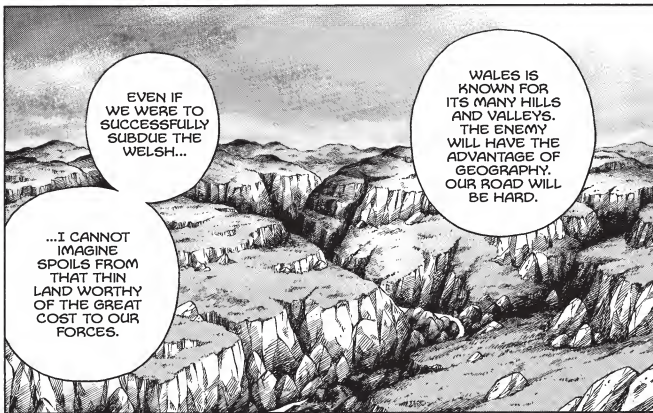
KING
SWEYN WILL
WANT TO
PLAY THE
DASHING
RULER
BEFORE HIS
CHIEFTAINS.

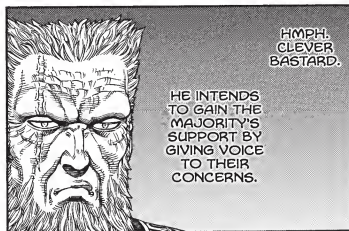


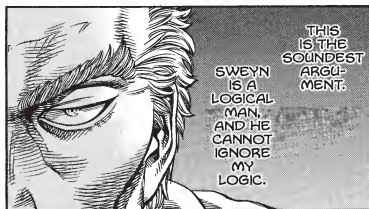
SPEAK
YOUR
MIND.

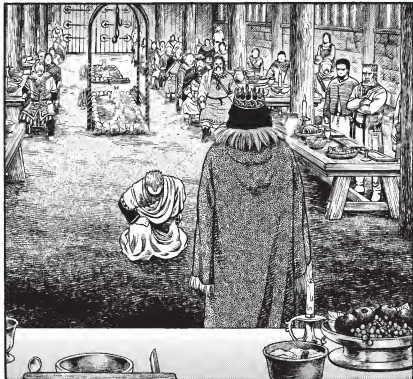
IT IS A
KING'S DUTY
TO LISTEN
TO HIS
SUBJECTS.

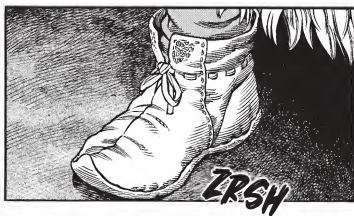








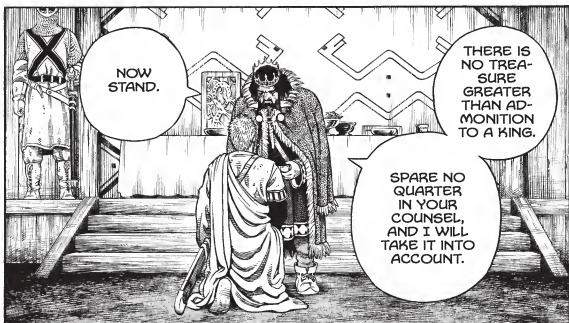








THIS
IS THE
IMAGE OF
A TRUE
SERVANT.



NOW
STAND.

THERE IS
NO TREAS-
URE
GREATER
THAN AD-
MONITION
TO A KING.

SPARE NO
QUARTER
IN YOUR
COUNSEL,
AND I WILL
TAKE IT INTO
ACCOUNT.





WALES
OR
CANUTE.

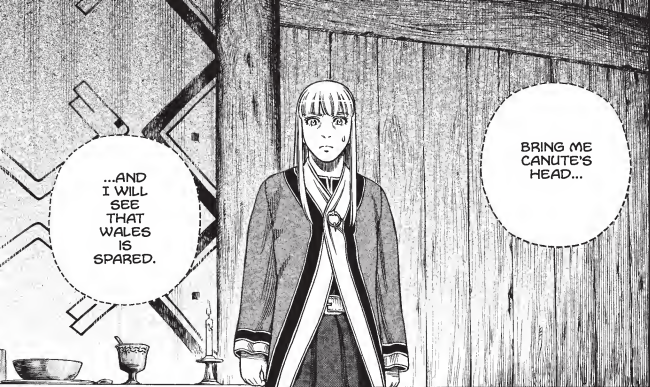
WHISPER...

CHOOSE.



IT IS MERELY
A STOPGAP
TO KEEP
THE TROOPS
OCCUPIED
WHILE WE
PREPARE FOR
IRELAND.

IN TRUTH,
I DO NOT CARE
ABOUT THE
SUBJUGATION
OF WALES.



...AND
I WILL
SEE
THAT
WALES
IS
SPARED.

BRING ME
CANUTE'S
HEAD...



I'VE
LOOKED
INTO
YOU.

I HEAR
YOUR
MOTHER
WAS A
SLAVE.



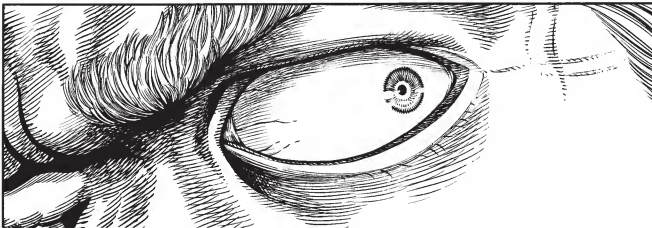
...

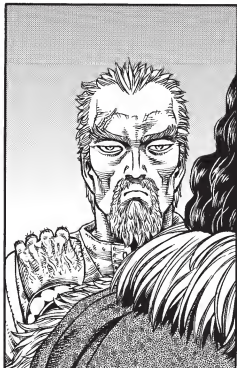
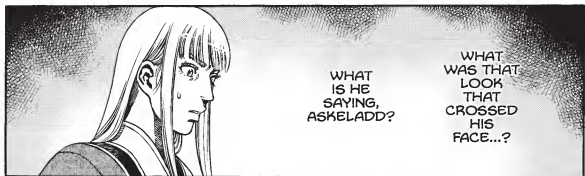
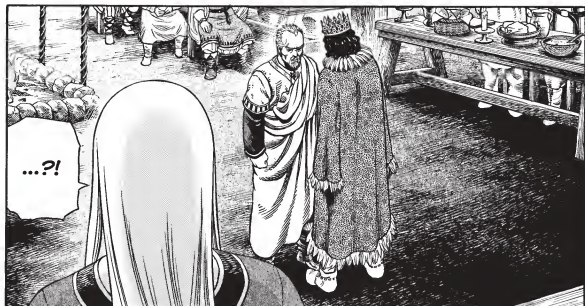


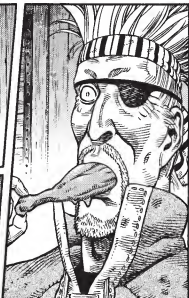
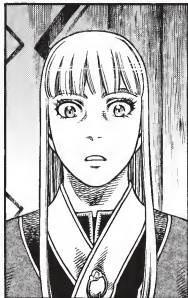
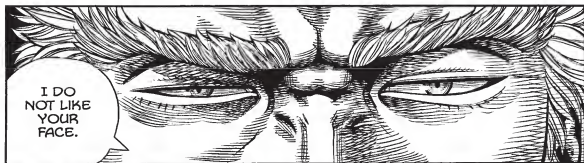
AFTER
ALL, IT'S
ONLY
EXPORT
OF ANY
VALUE...

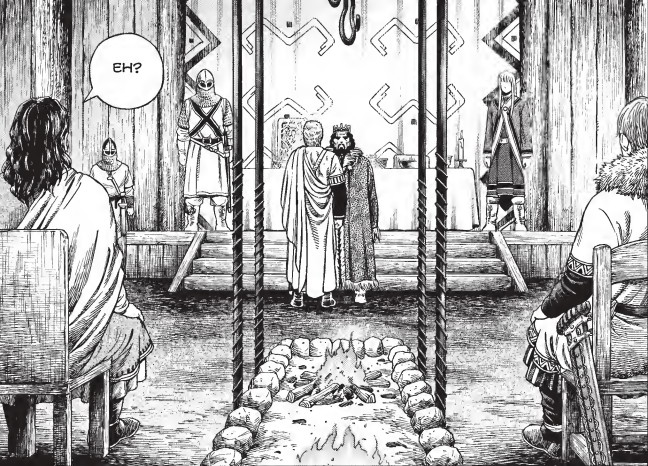
...IS
SLAVES,
IT
SEEMS.

IT WOULD
EXPLAIN
WHY YOU
HAVE SUCH
A FIXATION
ON WALES.









**I SAID
TAKE THE
JEWELS
OFF YOUR
HEAD, YOU
HIDEOUS
OLD FUCK!**

COME
NOW,
GRANDPA,
ARE YOU
HARD OF
HEARING
AS
WELL?

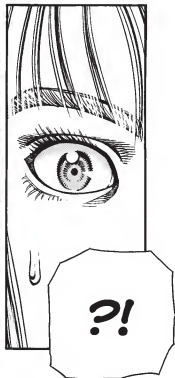
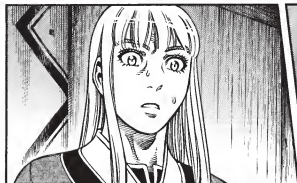
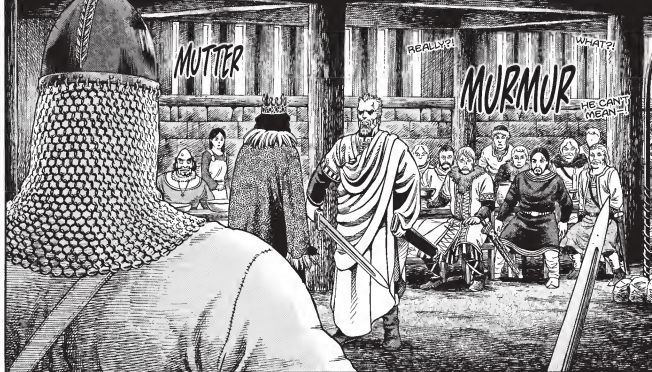
THAT'S
NOT THE
FACE OF
A KING.

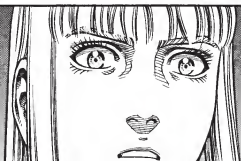
SHING...

SHK

DON'T
MOVE,
GUARDS.





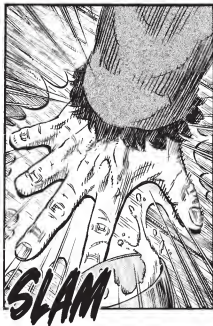


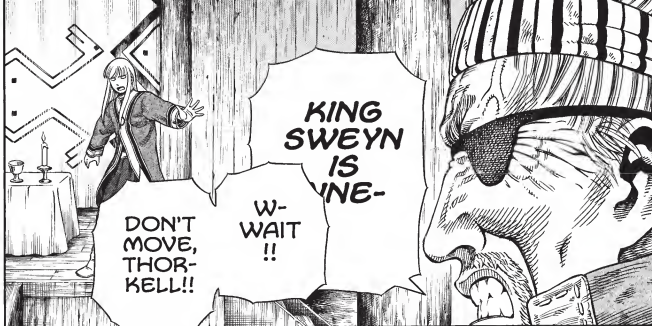
...ASKELADD...

STOP
STEAL-
ING ALL
THE
BEST
PARTS!!

SON
OF A
BITCH
!!

SHMM





DON'T
MOVE,
THOR-
KELL!!

W-
WAIT
!!

KING
SWEYN
IS
DINE-



...WHAT
?!

ASKELADD
HAS GONE
MAD!
DO NOT
AGITATE
HIM!



N...
NOTHING
MUST
HAPPEN
TO HIS
MAJESTY!



SSHP...



I WAS
CARELESS.

I WALKED
RIGHT
INTO HIS
CLUTCHES...

...PUT
AWAY
YOUR
SWORD,
ASKELADD.

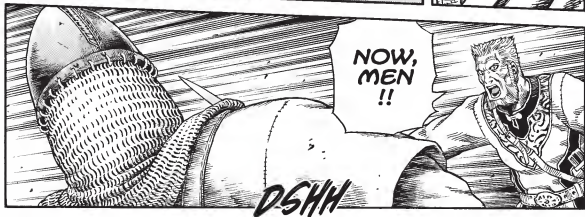
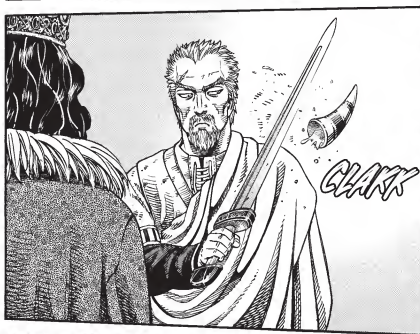
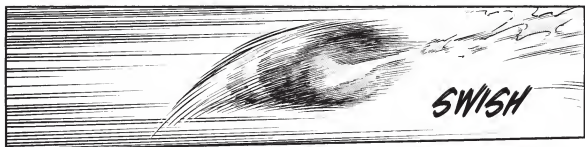
AND
I WILL
FORGIVE
YOUR
SIN.



A black and white manga-style illustration of a man with a beard and intense expression. He has spiky hair and a serious, almost angry look. He is wearing a tunic with a visible clasp. The background is dark and textured.

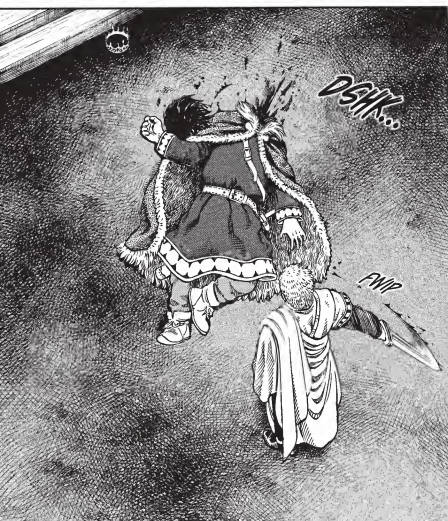
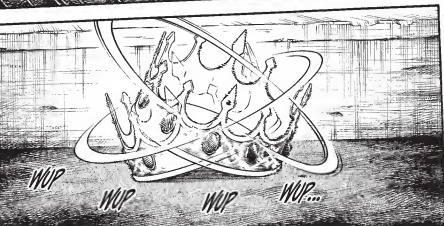
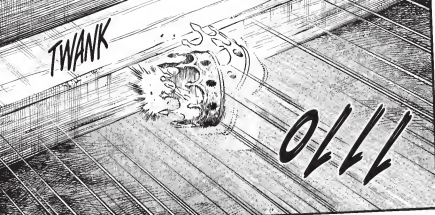
LUCIUS
ARTORIUS
CASTUS.

AND
I AM THE
RIGHTFUL
KING OF
BRITANNIA.

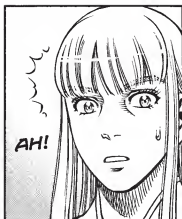




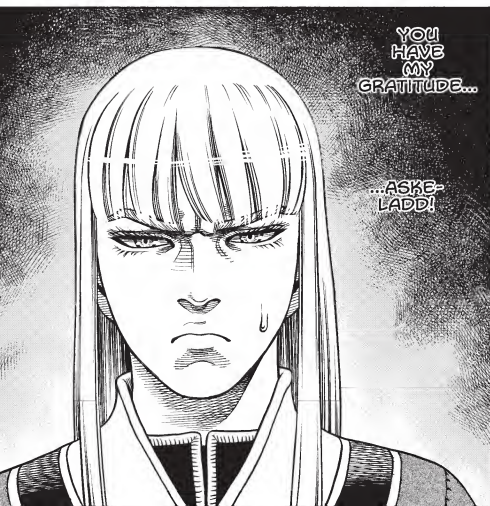
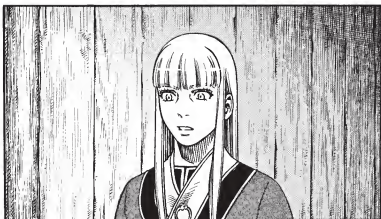








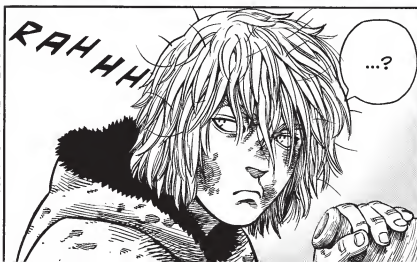
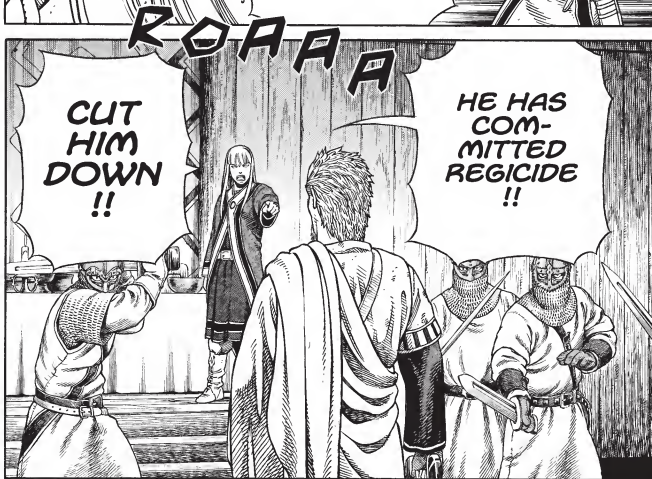
AH!



YOU
HAVE
MY
GRATITUDE...

...ASKE-
LADD!



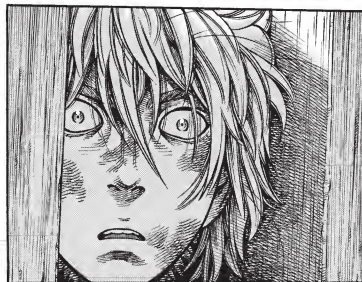


CHAPTER 53: THE FURY OF BRITANNIA'S KING

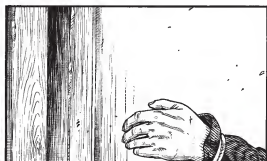
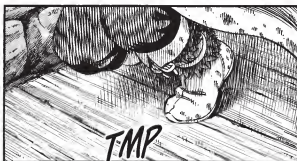
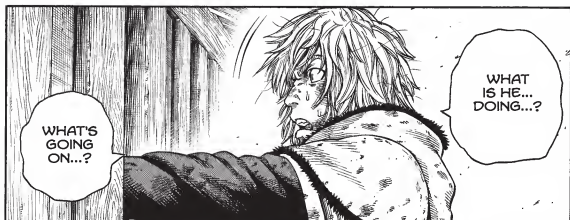




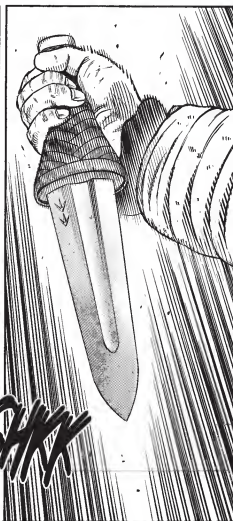


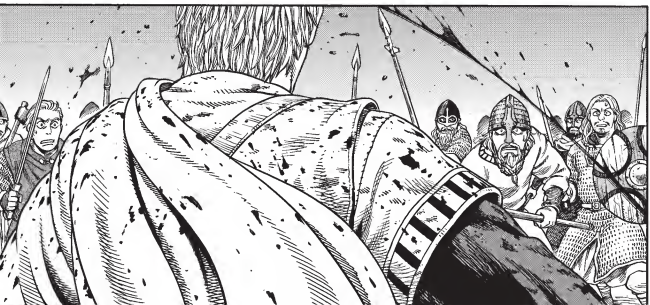






WHAT
THE
FUCK
IS HE
DOING
?!







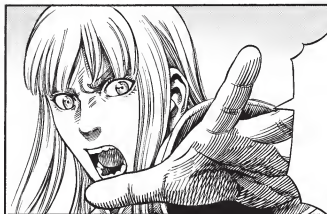
THE
KING OF
BRITANNIA
HIMSELF
WILL
OBLIGE
YOU!!

WHAT'S
WRONG?
STEP
FORWARD,
IF YOU
WISH TO
DIE!!



**OVER-
WHELM
HIM
WITH
NUMBERS
!!**

**DO NOT
FALTER!
RUN
HIM
DOWN!!**



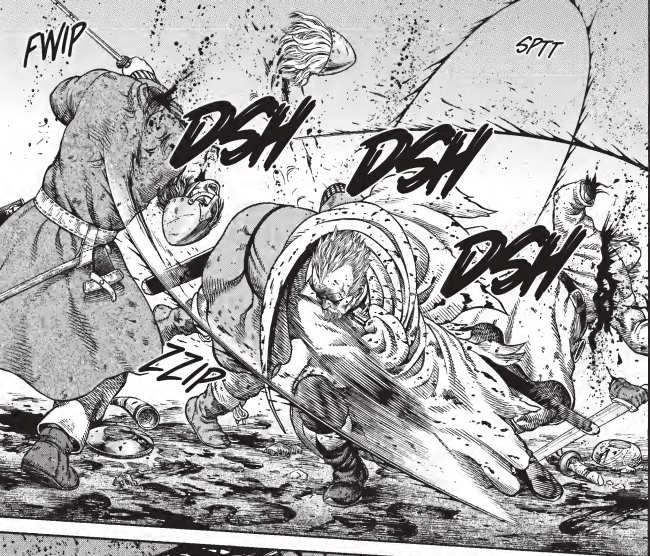
**HE
MUST
NOT
LEAVE
THIS
HALL
ALIVE!!**

**WHEN
REINFORCE-
MENTS
ARRIVE,
BARRICADE
ALL THE
DOORS!!**



**COVER
IT WITH
HIS CAPE!
DON'T
LET THE
SERVANTS
SEE
HIM!!**

**TAKE HIS
MAJESTY'S
BODY
INTO THE
BACK!!**





RAAH H H H

AHH!
HEY, NO
PUSHING!

ALL THE
CHIEFTAINS
MUST
LEAVE
THROUGH
THIS
DOOR!!

WHAT'S
THE HOLD-
UP?! KEEP
MOVING!

DON'T STEP
ON MY FEET!



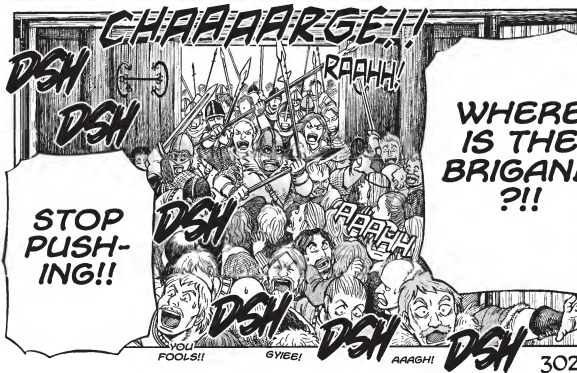
GR RKK



I-I'M
TRY-
ING...

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!
UNBAR
THE DOOR,
ALREADY!!

GRRGG...



CHAAAARGE!!

DSH

DSH

DSH

DSH

DSH

DSH

STOP
PUSH-
ING!!

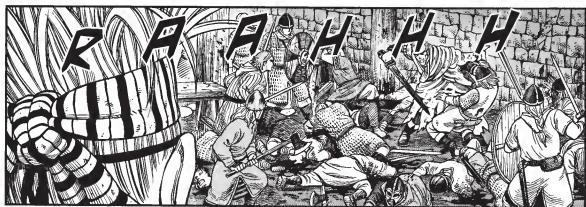
WHERE
IS THE
BRIGAND
?!!

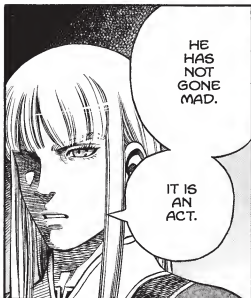
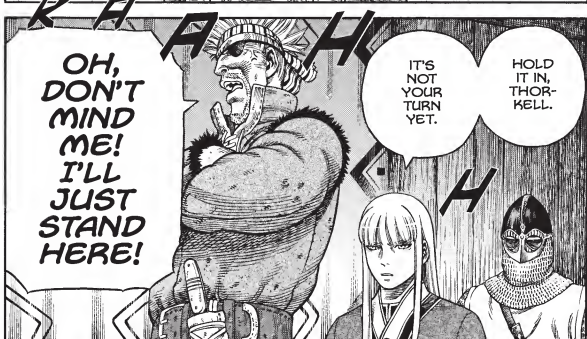
YOU
FOOLS!!

GYIE!

AAAGH!

302







BY ACTING
LIKE A
MADMAN, HE
ASSUMES
ALL THE
GUILT FOR
THE MURDER
OF THE KING.

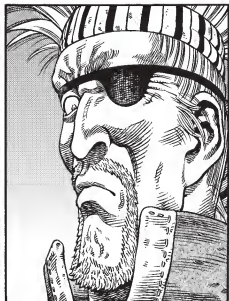
ME
OR
WALES...

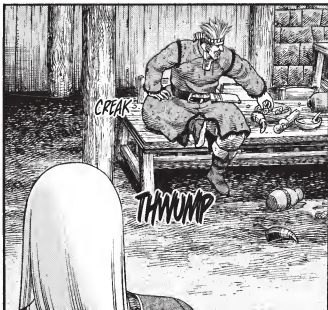
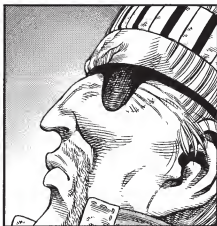
HE TOOK
THE OPTION
THAT
DELIVERED
THE
GREATEST
CHANCE
OF SAVING
BOTH.

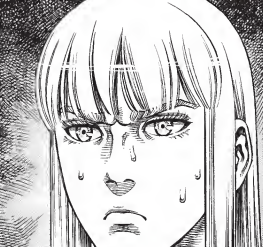


LET HIM
HAVE HIS
RAMPAGE.

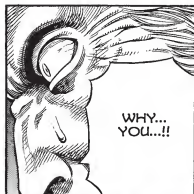
I'LL
ALLOW
YOU TO
FINISH IT.



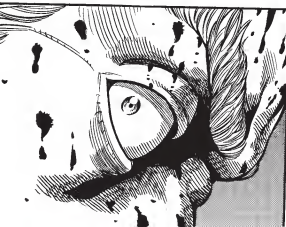






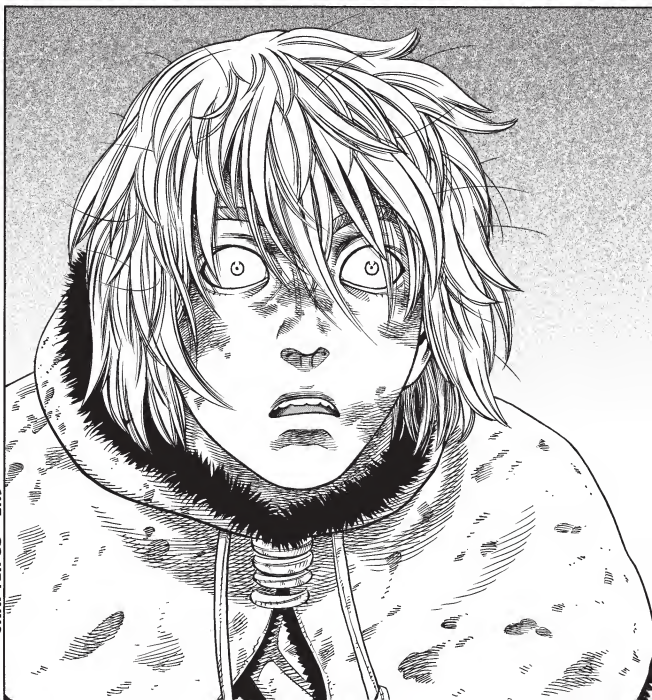
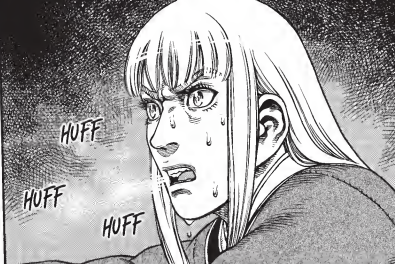
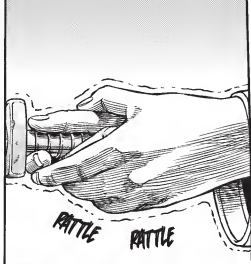






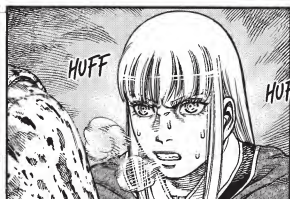
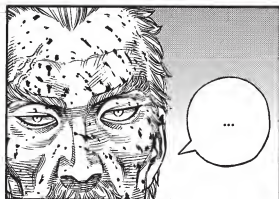
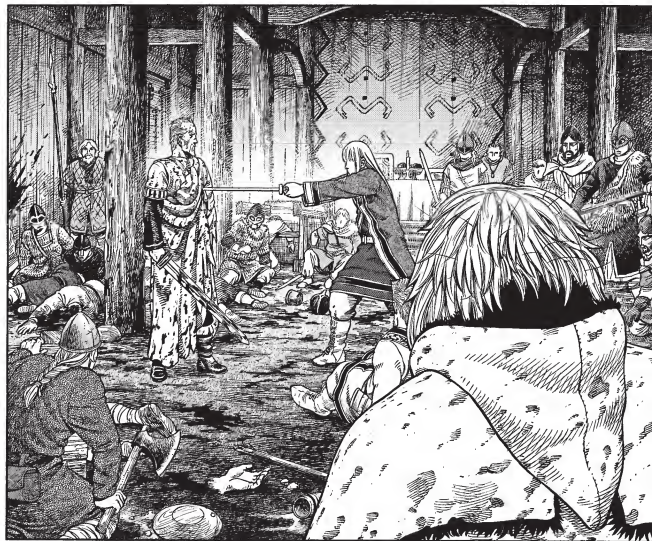


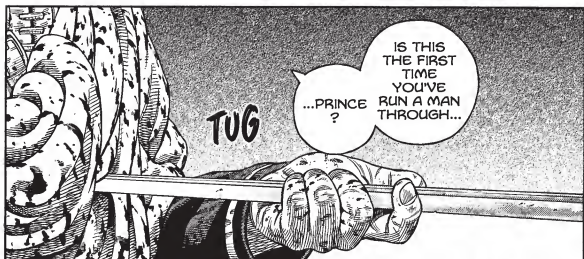


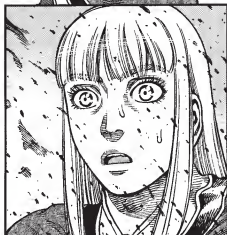
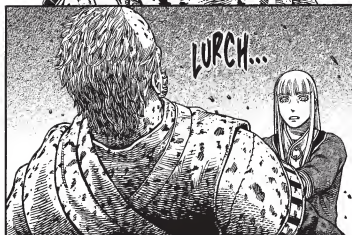


CHAPTER 54: END OF THE PROLOGUE



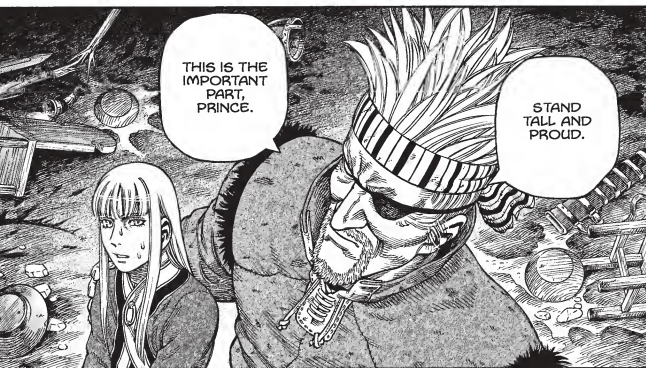












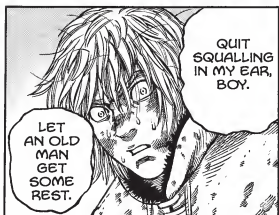


YOU JUST
HAD
TO GET
STABBED IN
THE WORST
POSSIBLE
PLACE, YOU
IDIOT!!

SHIT!!
AHH,
DAMN
IT ALL
!!



...FOOL.



LET
AN OLD
MAN
GET
SOME
REST.

QUIT
SQUALLING
IN MY EAR,
BOY.

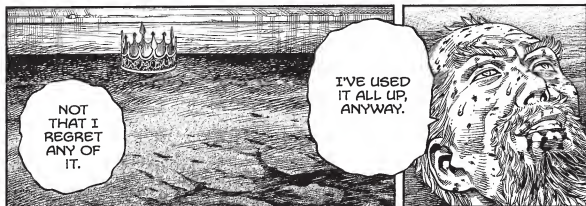
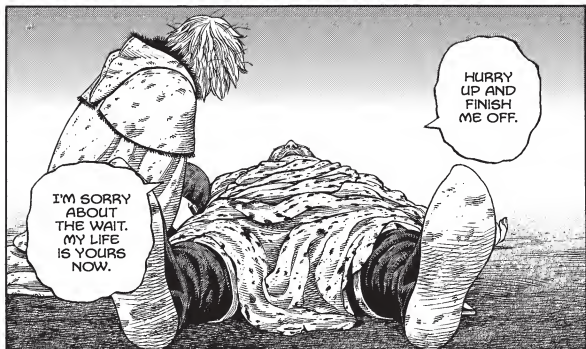


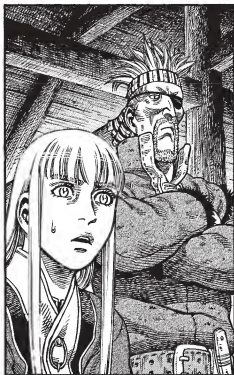
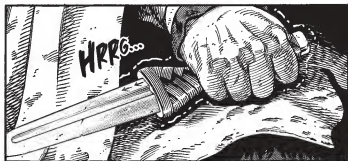
HIM
?!

THAT'S
THORFINN
KARLSEFN!!

HEY,
POINTY
HAIR!! GET
ON YOUR
FEET,
ASSHOLE!!
WE'LL FIX
YOU UP
LATER!!

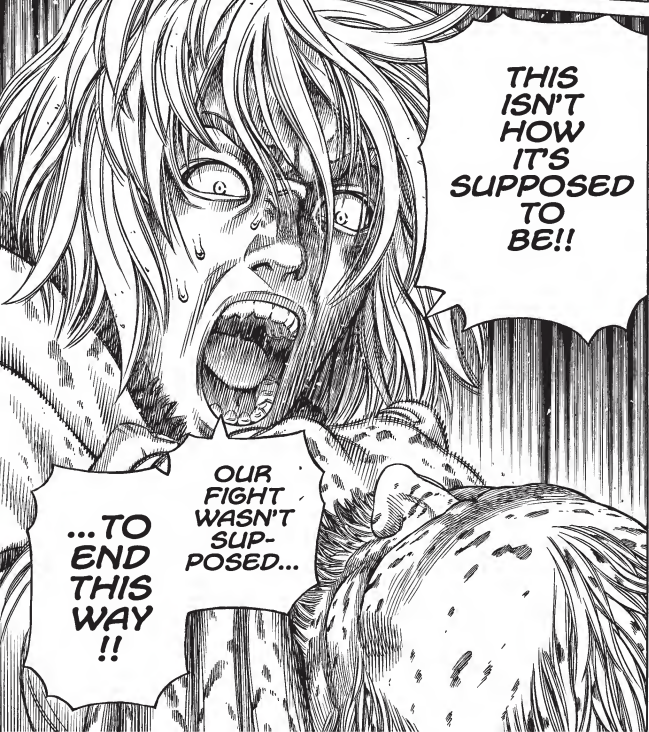
WE'VE
GOTTA
GET
OUTTA
HERE!!







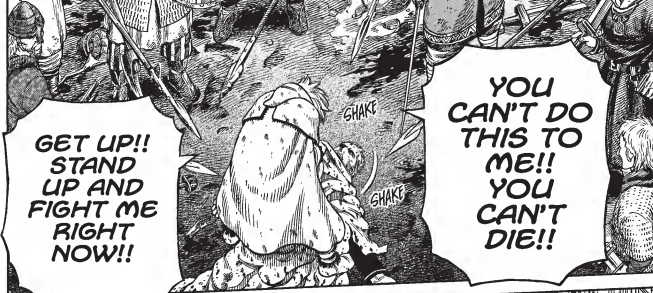
WRRG



**THIS
ISN'T
HOW
IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO
BE!!**

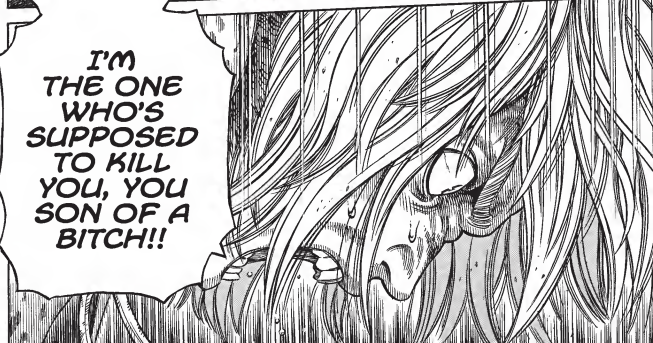
**...TO
END
THIS
WAY
!!**

**OUR
FIGHT
WASN'T
SUP-
POSED...**

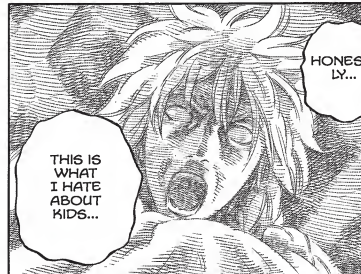


**GET UP!!
STAND
UP AND
FIGHT ME
RIGHT
NOW!!**

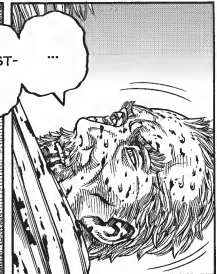
**YOU
CAN'T DO
THIS TO
ME!!
YOU
CAN'T
DIE!!**



**I'M
THE ONE
WHO'S
SUPPOSED
TO KILL
YOU, YOU
SON OF A
BITCH!!**



**THIS IS
WHAT
I HATE
ABOUT
KIDS...**



**HONEST-
LY...**

...

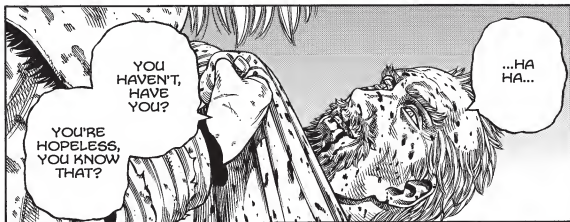


...AFTER
I'M DEAD,
THORFINN?

HAVEN'T
YOU
GIVEN A
THOUGHT...

...TO
WHAT
YOU'RE
GOING
TO LIVE
FOR...







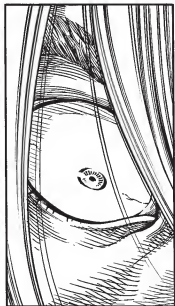
YOU
ARE THE
SON OF
THORS...

...SO
VENTURE
BEYOND
THE WORLD
HE SAW.

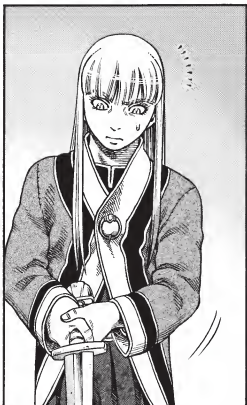
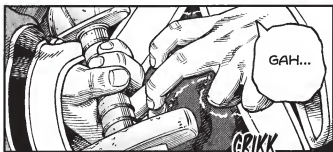
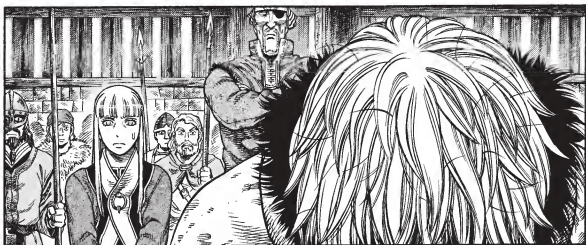
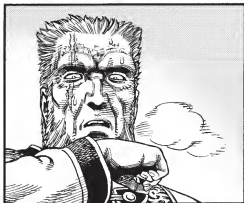
THAT...
IS YOUR
TRUE
BATTLE.

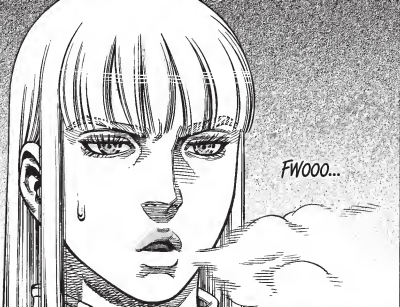


SLIP...

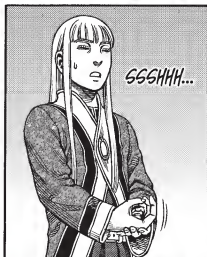








FWOOO...

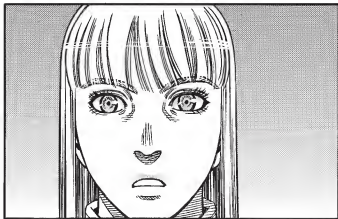
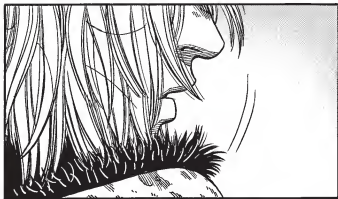
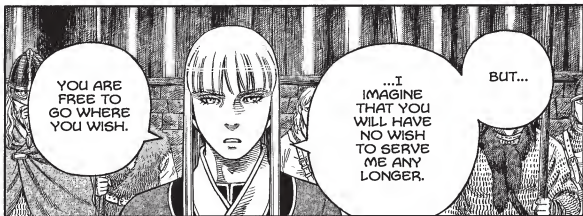


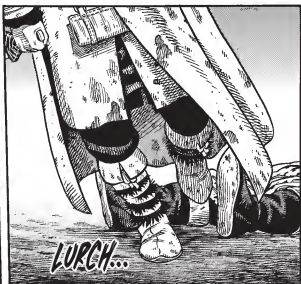
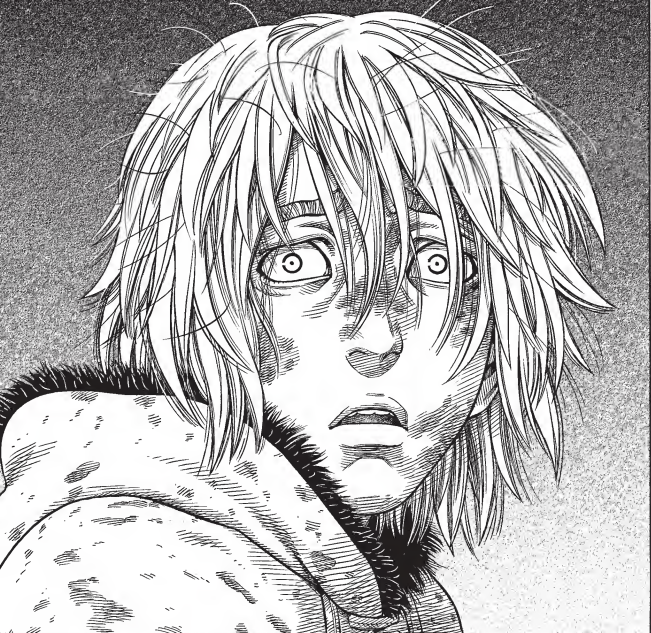
SSSSHHH...

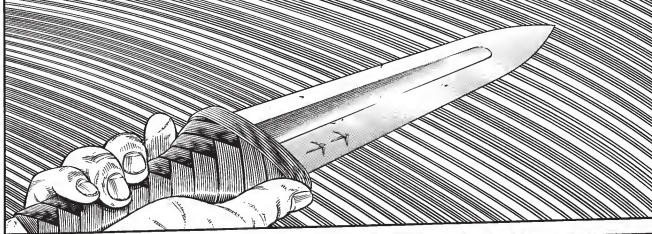


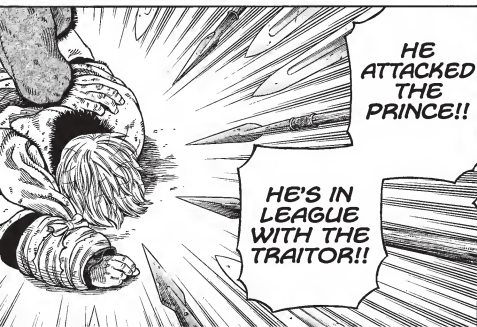
HE WAS STRUCK BY A SUDDEN MADNESS AND KILLED THE KING. HE HAD TO PAY WITH HIS LIFE.

I WILL NOT ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS, THORFINN.











**CEASE
!!**



HE IS
NOT LIKE
ASKE-
LADD!!

DO NOT
KILL
HIM!
I AM
FINE!!



DO
NOT
BOTH-
ER.

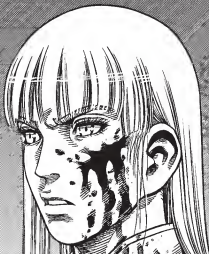
IT IS A
SHALLOW
WOUND.

LET ME
SEE TO
YOU,
HIGHNESS!

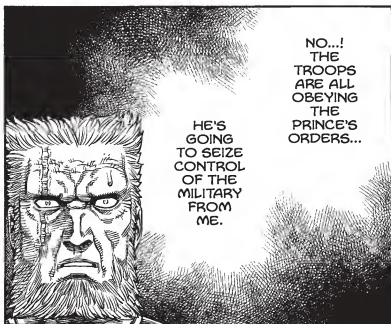


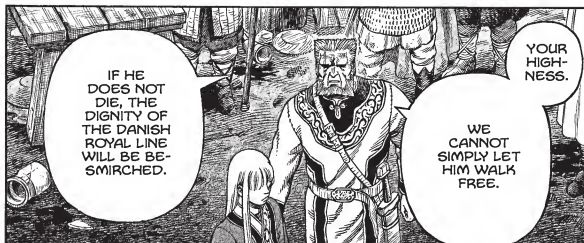
JUST
THE
FACE?

THAT
WON'T
KILL HIM,
THEN.



...A
MEAGER
PRICE.

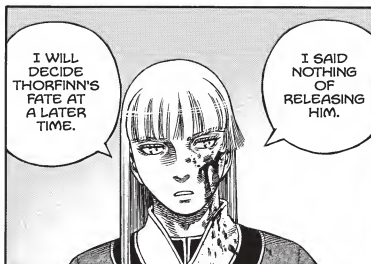




IF HE DOES NOT DIE, THE DIGNITY OF THE DANISH ROYAL LINE WILL BE BE-SMIRCHED.

YOUR HIGHNESS.

WE CANNOT SIMPLY LET HIM WALK FREE.



I WILL DECIDE THORFINN'S FATE AT A LATER TIME.

I SAID NOTHING OF RELEASING HIM.



TSK.

HE'S ALWAYS GOTTA STICK HIS NOSE IN.



ESCORT THE PRINCE.

MY LORD.



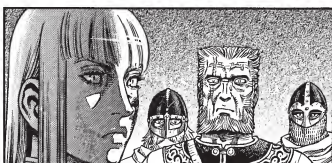
LEAVE THE RESOLUTION OF THIS DREADFUL SCENE TO ME. I KNOW WHAT TO DO.

PLEASE BE AT REST IN THE BACK ROOM, HIGHNESS.

WE MUST TEND TO YOUR WOUND AT ONCE.

NOW THAT
THE OLD KING
HAS DIED,
WHO DO
YOU BELIEVE
COMMANDS
THE FORCES
ON THE
ENGLISH
FRONT?

FLOKI.



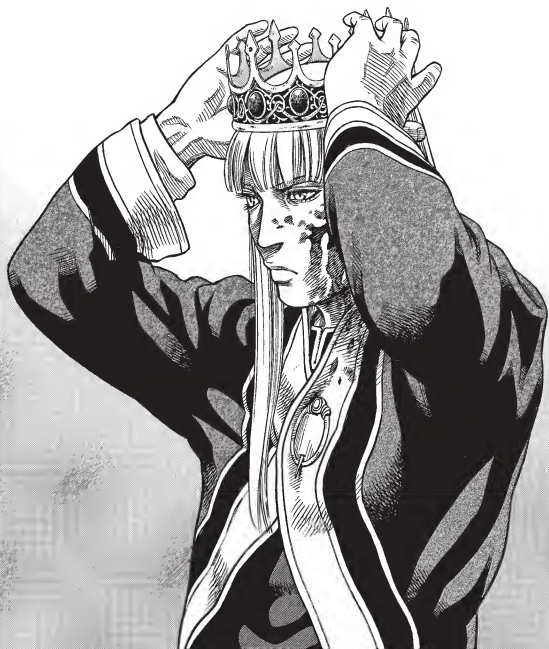
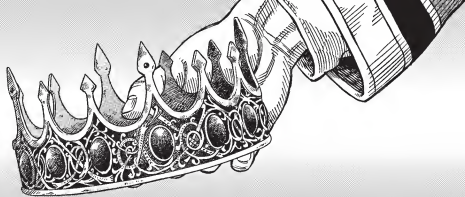
WHO
IS IN
CONTROL
?

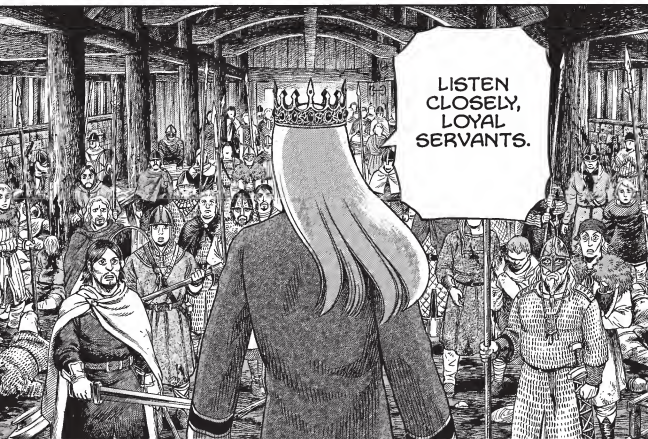
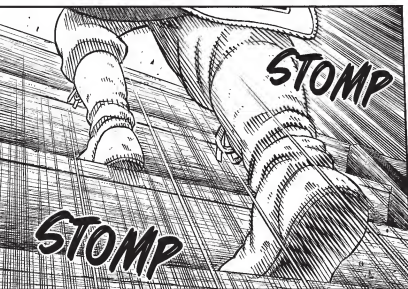
WHAT'S
WRONG?
SPEAK.

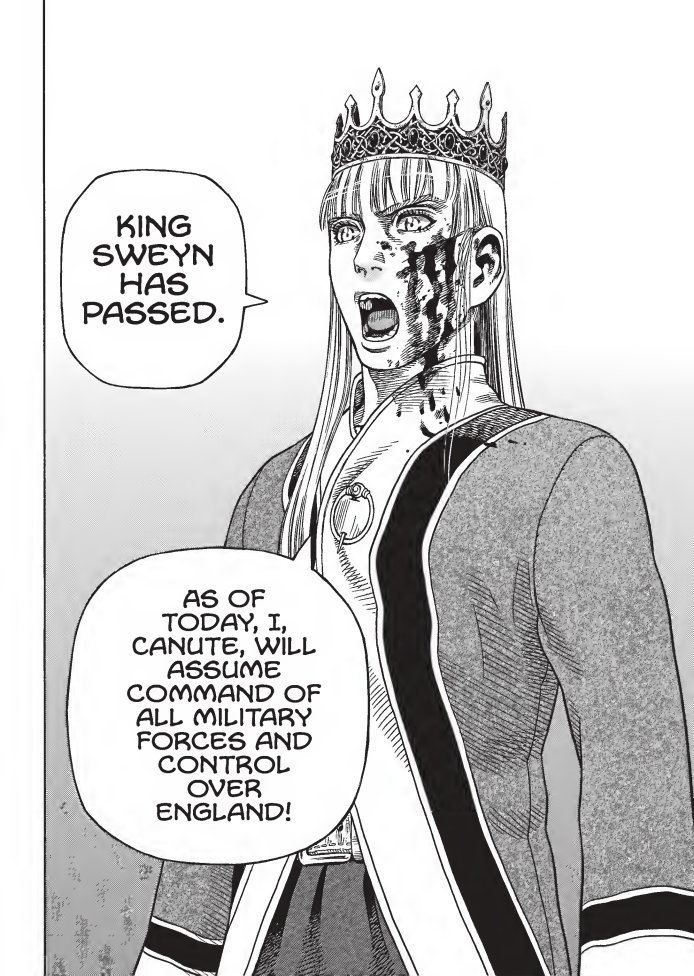


RRGH...



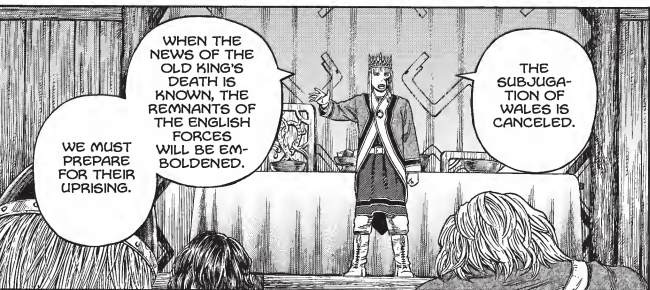
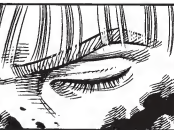


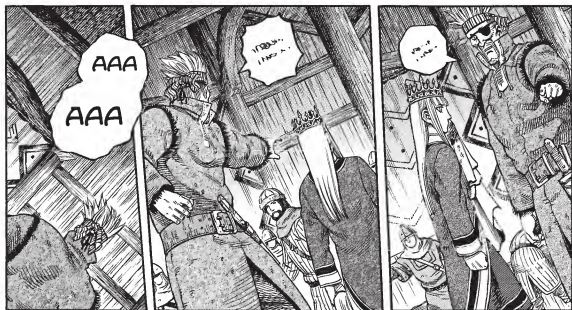
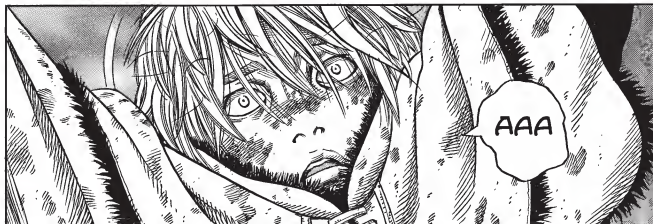


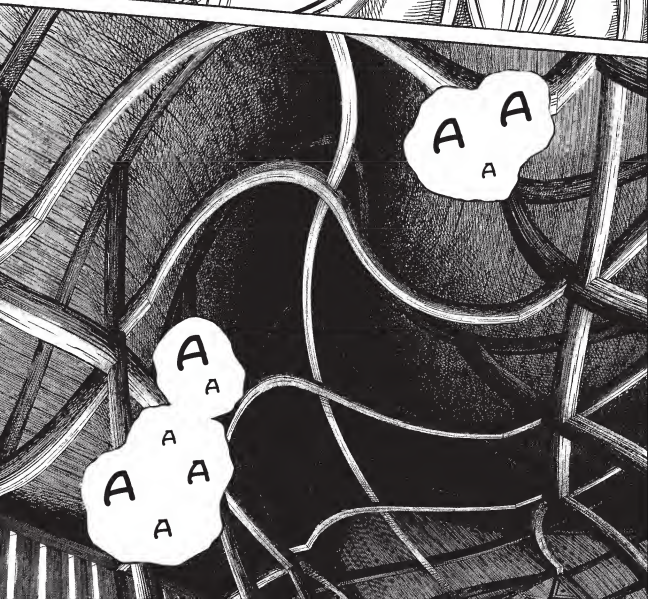
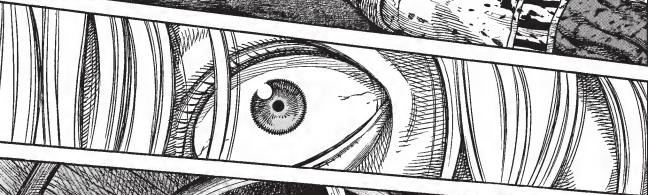


KING
SWEYN
HAS
PASSED.

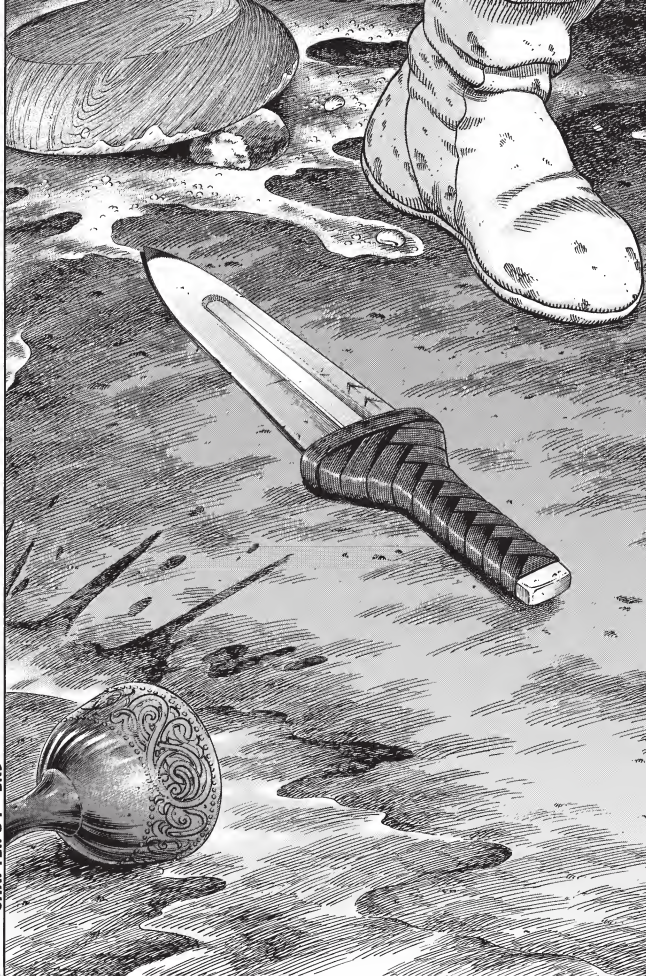
AS OF
TODAY, I,
CANUTE, WILL
ASSUME
COMMAND OF
ALL MILITARY
FORCES AND
CONTROL
OVER
ENGLAND!













ON THE HILLSIDE DREAR THE FIR-TREE DIES,
ALL BOOTLESS ITS NEEDLES AND BARK;
IT IS LIKE A MAN WHOM NO ONE LOVES.
WHY SHOULD HIS LIFE BE LONG?

-HÁVAMÁL

KSHAA





WATCH
OUT,
THERE'S
A ROPE
LOOSE!!

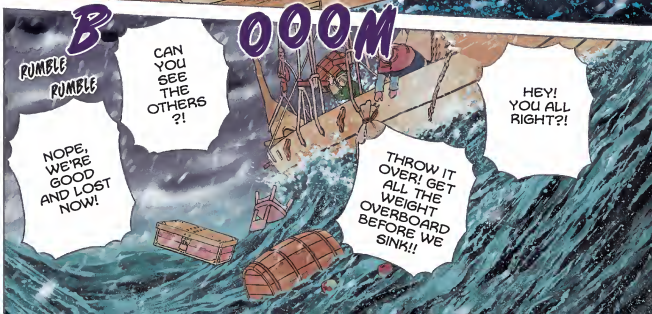
BWANG



BA-

AAGH

PWASH



B

RUMBLE
RUMBLE

CAN
YOU
SEE
THE
OTHERS
?!

NOPE,
WE'RE
GOOD
AND LOST
NOW!

OOOM

THROW IT
OVER! GET
ALL THE
WEIGHT
OVERBOARD
BEFORE WE
SINK!!

HEY!
YOU ALL
RIGHT?!



COME
QUICK!!

HEY!!
YOU
FELLOWS
!!



I
THINK
SHE'S
SICK!

SHE'S
TREMBLING
TERRIBLY!
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?!

OOOM



NOW'S
NOT THE
TIME FOR
THIS!

AHH,
SHIT!!

SHOULD
HAVE
KNOWN!

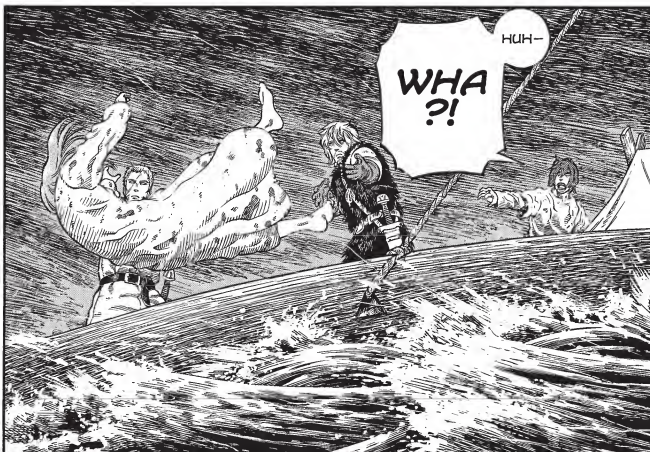


SHE'S
SICK!!
S-I-C-K!!

AHH?!
WHAT'D
YOU
SAY?!

SPWASH

DSHAAAA







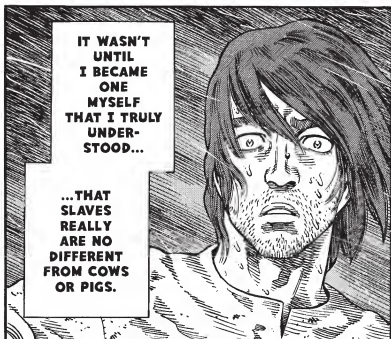
YOU'RE NOT
TO CATCH SICK
WITHOUT YOUR
MASTER'S SAY-
SO!!

YOU'RE ALL
VALUABLE
MERCHANDISE,
AND YOU COST
A PRETTY
COIN!



IS THAT
CLEAR,
SLAVES?!

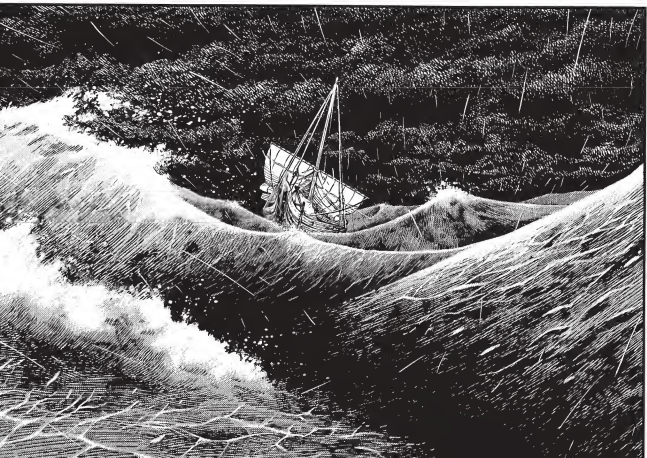
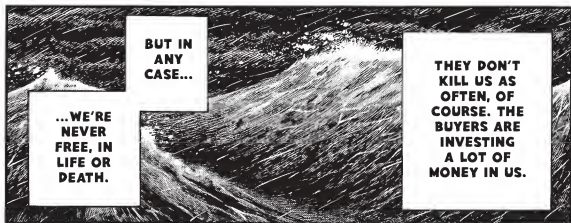
STAY
HEALTHY
UNTIL WE
CAN SELL
YOU OFF TO
YOUR
NEW
OWNERS.

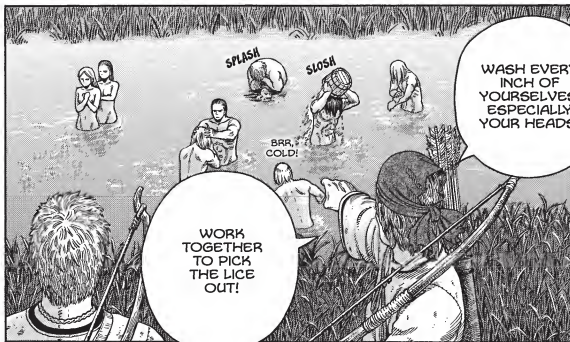


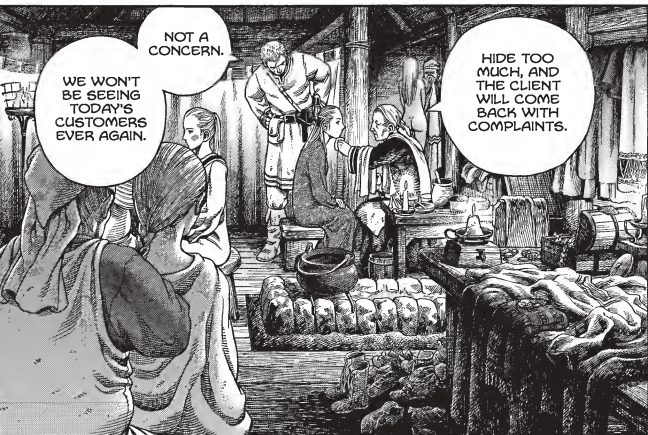
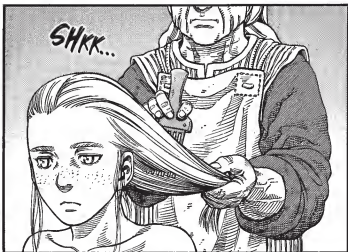
IT WASN'T
UNTIL
I BECAME
ONE
MYSELF
THAT I TRULY
UNDER-
STOOD...

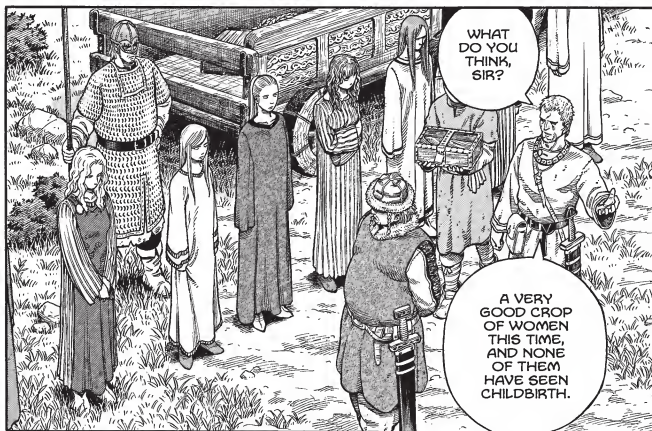
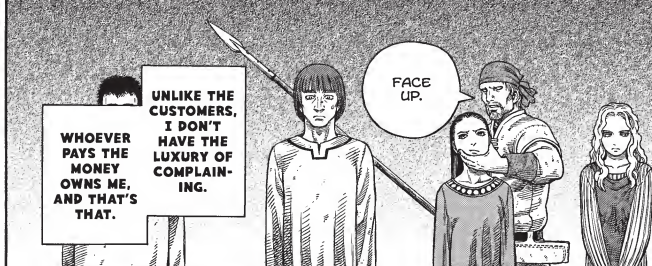
...THAT
SLAVES
REALLY
ARE NO
DIFFERENT
FROM COWS
OR PIGS.

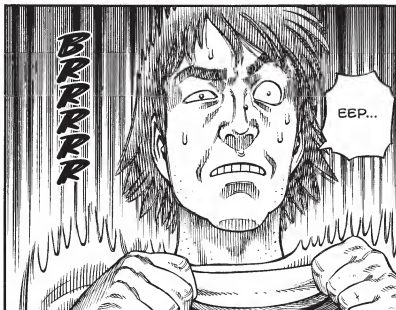
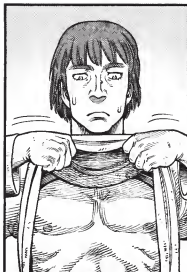


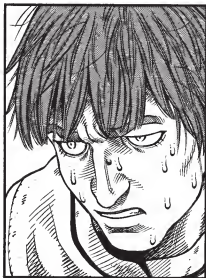
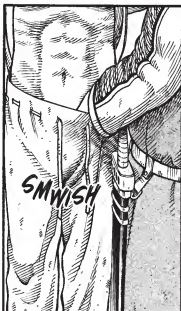
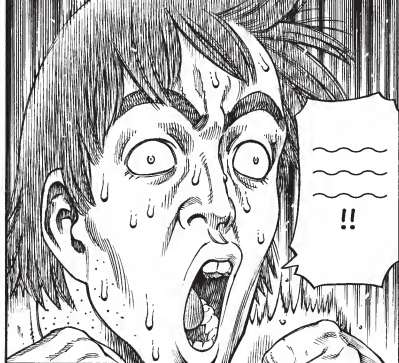














**AFTER
ALL,
I WASN'T
CHAINED,
SO HOW
HARD
COULD
IT BE?**

**I
ESCAPED
A FEW
TIMES.**

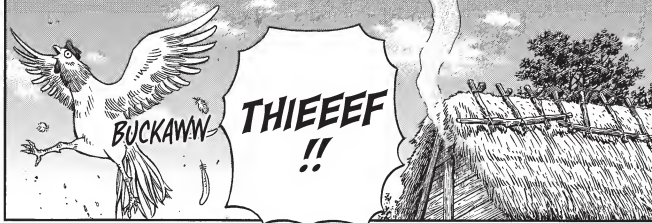


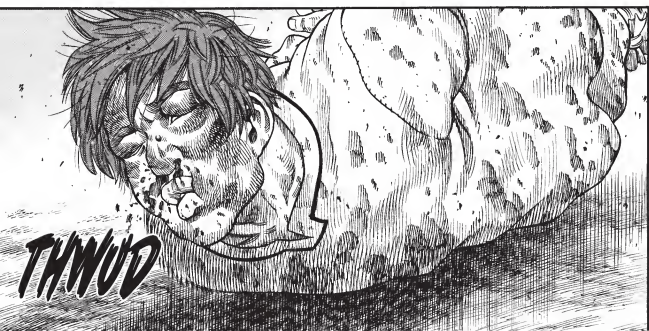
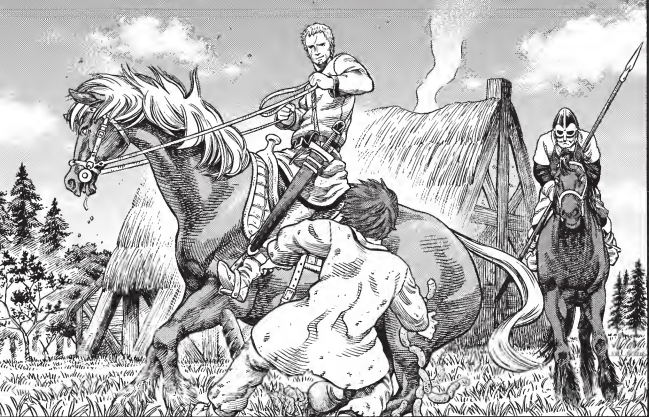
I'M SO
HUNGRY...



**YOU
JUST
DON'T
REALIZE
IT UNTIL
YOU
TRY.**

**TURNS
OUT,
PLENTY
HARD.**







DON'T GET ANY
FUNNY IDEAS IN
YOUR HEADS!
YOU MIGHT
ESCAPE FROM
THIS CAMP,
BUT YOU HAVE
NOWHERE TO
GO!

LISTEN
CLOSELY,
SLAVES!!



...THERE
IS NO MAN
IN THIS
COUNTRY
WHO WILL
HELP YOU
ESCAPE!

AND
NEED-
LESS
TO SAY...

YOUR
HOMES ARE
FAR ACROSS
THE SEA!
YOU CANNOT
REACH
THEM ON
YOUR OWN!

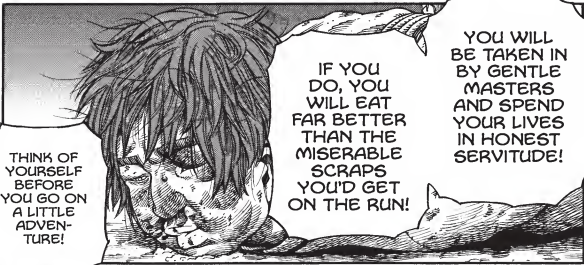


YOU
ARE
SLAVES
!!

YOU
ARE
PENNI-
LESS
...

YOU
ARE
OUT-
SIDERS
...

THIS
IS
BE-
CAUSE
...



THINK OF
YOURSELF
BEFORE
YOU GO ON
A LITTLE
ADVEN-
TURE!

IF YOU
DO, YOU
WILL EAT
FAR BETTER
THAN THE
MISERABLE
SCRAPS
YOU'D GET
ON THE RUN!

YOU WILL
BE TAKEN IN
BY GENTLE
MASTERS
AND SPEND
YOUR LIVES
IN HONEST
SERVITUDE!

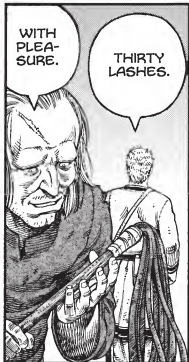


GOT
THAT,
EINAR
?!

AND IF YOU
WORK HARD
AND HONESTLY,
AND YOUR
MASTER LIKES
YOU, YOU
MIGHT END UP
A FREE MAN.



WPASH
AAAGH
PSHAKK
EEYAAA



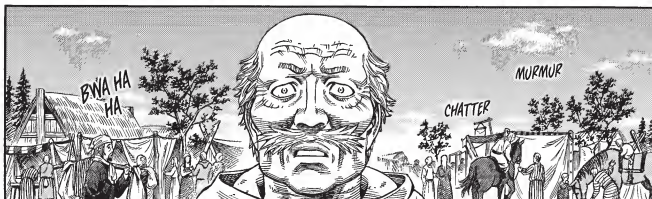
WITH
PLEA-
SURE.

THIRTY
LASHES.



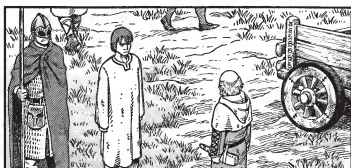
**STRIVING
WILDLY FOR
FREEDOM WAS
POINTLESS.
HOME WAS FAR
AWAY, AND
THERE WAS NO
HELP ON THE
WAY.**

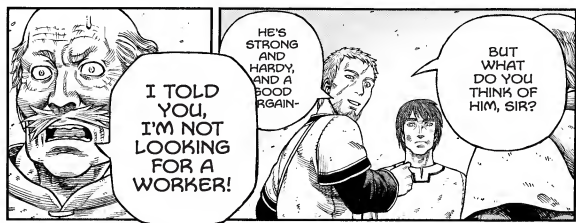
**THOUGH
IT SICKENS
ME TO
ADMIT IT,
THEY WERE
RIGHT.**

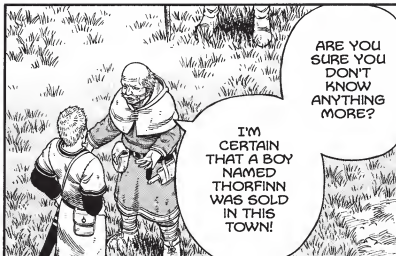


**IN
TIME,
I GAVE
IN TO
MY
PLIGHT.**

**"AS LONG
AS I ACT
A PROPER
SLAVE,
I WON'T
STARVE."**







ARE YOU
SURE YOU
DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
MORE?

I'M
CERTAIN
THAT A BOY
NAMED
THORFINN
WAS SOLD
IN THIS
TOWN!



SIGH...



REMEMBER
US, NEXT
TIME
YOU'RE
BUYING.

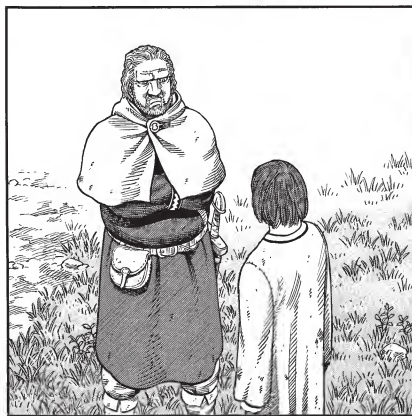
NOT
AT
ALL.

SORRY TO
BOTHER
YOU.



DOES THAT
OLD MAN
EVEN HAVE
THE COIN
FOR IT?

HE'LL
NEVER
FIND WHAT
HE'S
LOOKING
FOR.





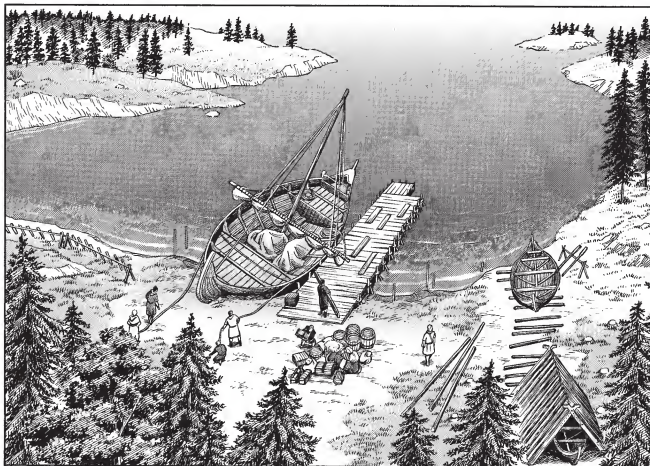


**I FETCHED
A PRICE
SLIGHTLY
HIGHER
THAN TWO
COWS.**



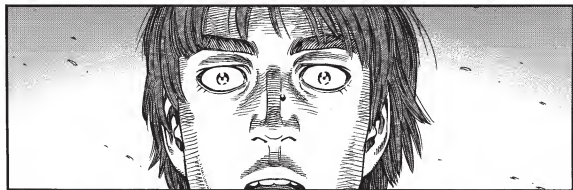
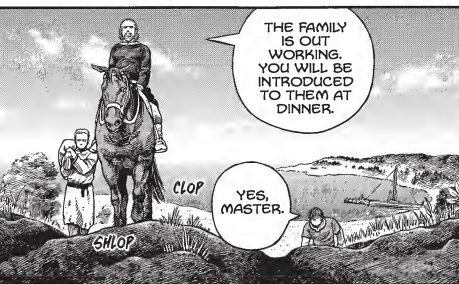
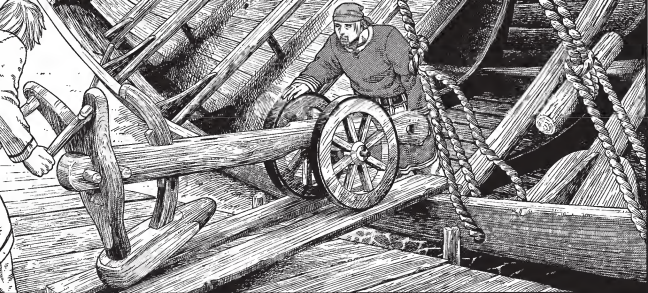
**THIS
MAN IS
KETIL, MY
NEW
MASTER.**

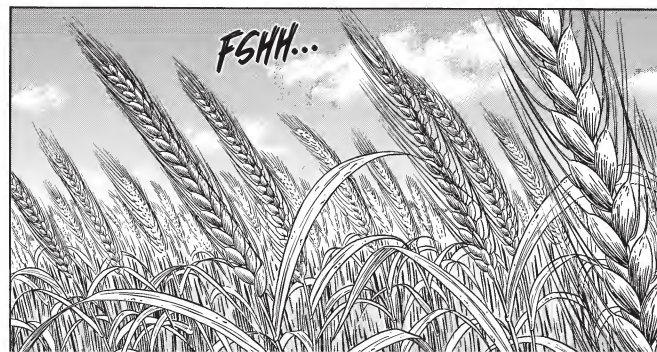


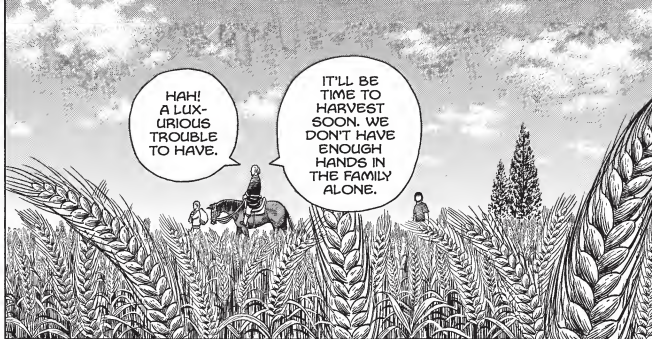


**IT WAS IN
A PLACE
CALLED
JUTLAND,
IN
DENMARK.**

**WE
ARRIVED
AT KETIL'S
FARM NEAR
THE END OF
JUNE.**

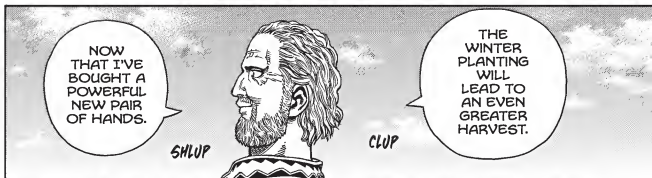






HAH!
A LUX-
URIOUS
TROUBLE
TO HAVE.

IT'LL BE
TIME TO
HARVEST
SOON. WE
DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH
HANDS IN
THE FAMILY
ALONE.

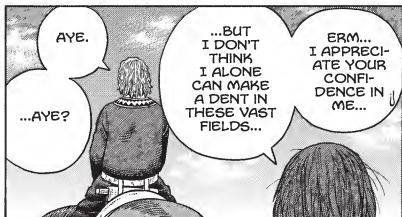


NOW
THAT I'VE
BOUGHT A
POWERFUL
NEW PAIR
OF HANDS.

SHUP

CLUP

THE
WINTER
PLANTING
WILL
LEAD TO
AN EVEN
GREATER
HARVEST.



AYE.

...AYE?

...BUT
I DON'T
THINK
I ALONE
CAN MAKE
A DENT IN
THESE VAST
FIELDS...

ERM...
I APPRECI-
ATE YOUR
CONFIDENCE IN
ME...

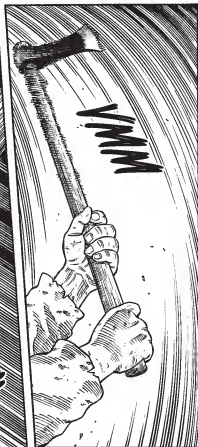


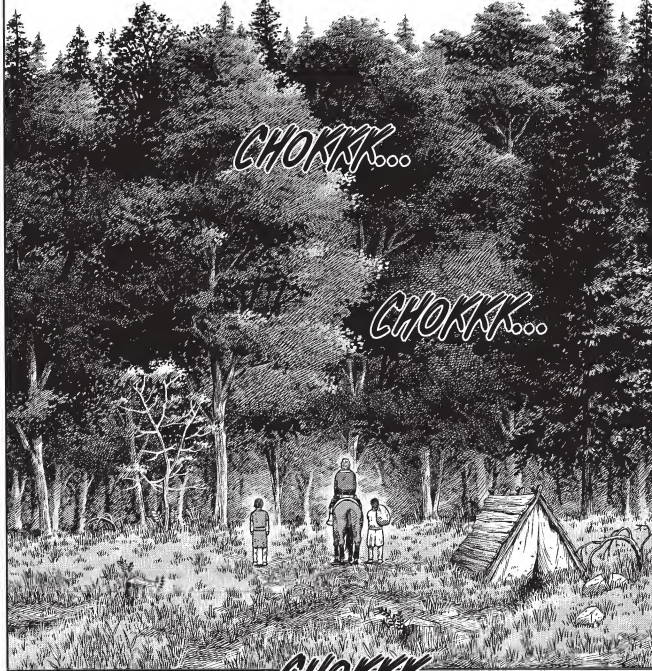
NO, NO,
NOT
YOU.

AHH.

HA
HA.

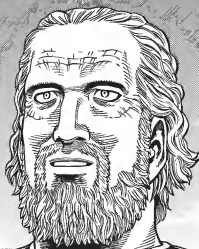






...MY
NEXT
WHEAT
FIELD.

IT'S
ACTUALLY
...



THORFINN!
IT'S ME!



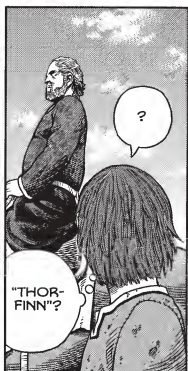
I
COULDN'T
BELIEVE
IT.

ALL THOSE
FIELDS, AND
MY NEW
MASTER
WANTED
TO MAKE
A NEW ONE.



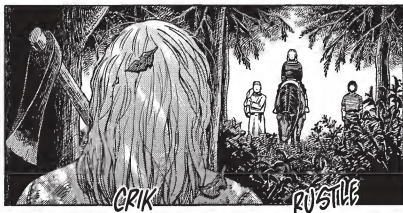
...HUH?

WHERE
HAVE
I HEARD
THAT
NAME
BEFORE?



?

"THOR-
FINN"?



CRICK

ROSTLE

...THE
FIRST
TIME
I MET
THOR-
FINN.

AND
THAT
WAS...

CHAPTER 56: KETIL'S FARM





THORFINN.

EINAR.

STARTING
TODAY,
YOU
WILL BE
FRIENDS.



YOU'LL BE
WORKING
TOGETHER
ON THE
SAME JOB.

WELL,
GET
ALONG
NOW.

**LATE JUNE 1015
KETIL'S FARM
SOUTHERN JUTLAND,
DENMARK**



...HEY.



NICE TO
MEET
YOU...
THORFINN.

BUT HE
CAN'T BE
A CHILD...
HE'S GOT
STUBBLE.

HE'S
TINY...



AYE.

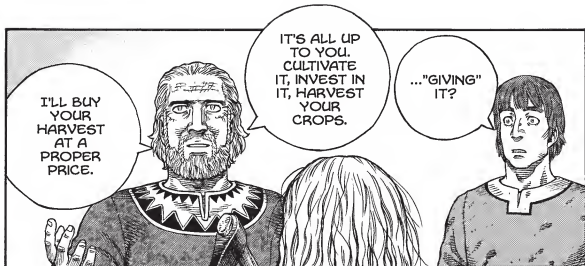
WELL,
LET ME
TELL YOU
ABOUT
YOUR
JOB.

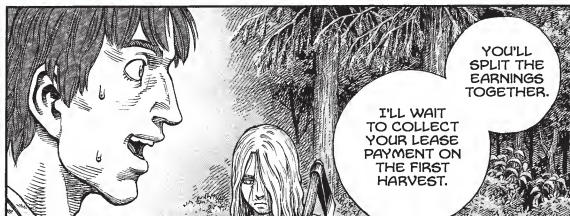
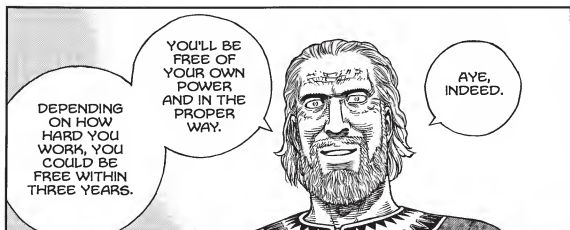


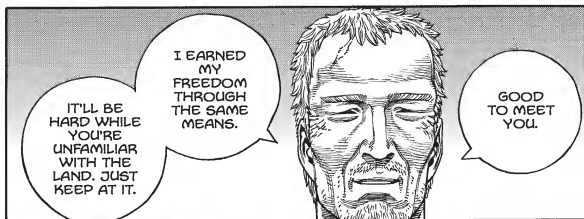
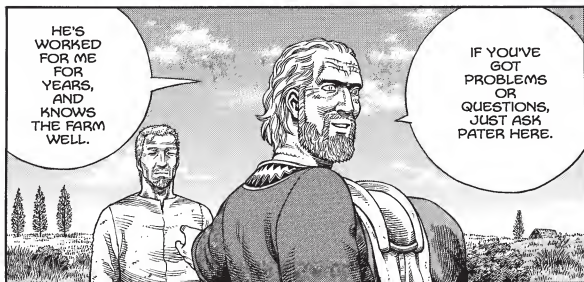
THIS
FOREST IS
MY LAND.

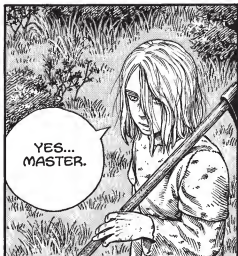
I'M
GIVING
IT...

...TO
YOU
TWO TO
WORK
ON.

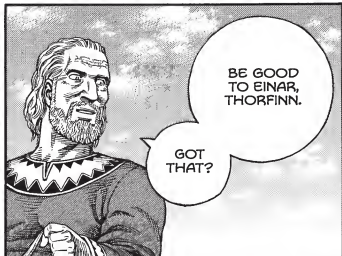








YES...
MASTER.



BE GOOD
TO EINAR,
THORFINN.

GOT
THAT?



TELL WORK
MYSELF TO
THE BONE!

THANK
YOU!
THANK
YOU!!

SHLOP
SHLOP



HUH?

HEY! HEY,
IS THE
MASTER—

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
CRICKLE





HEY,
THORFINN!

IS THE
MASTER
TRULY A
GOOD-
HEARTED
MAN AFTER
ALL?



I WAS
WORRIED
THAT THE
SAME WAS
GOING TO
HAPPEN TO
ME.

THERE WAS
A SLAVE BACK
IN MY TOWN,
BUT HE WAS
A SLAVE
FOREVER AND
ALWAYS.

I'D NEVER
HAVE
IMAGINED
THIS WOULD
HAPPEN. WHAT
IF IT'S THE
STYLE HERE IN
DENMARK?



OH!!!
ICELAND!

...WHERE'S
ICELAND?



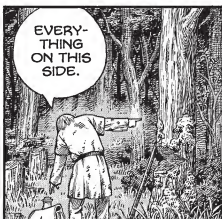
...ICELAND.



OH, I'M
FROM
NORTHERN
ENGLAND, BY
THE WAY.

WHERE
ARE YOU
FROM?

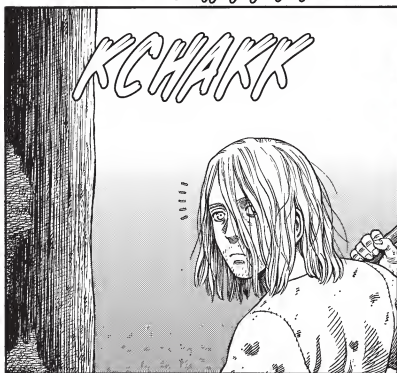
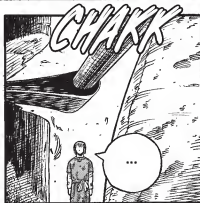
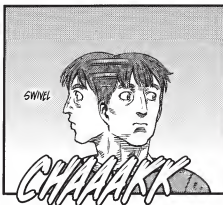
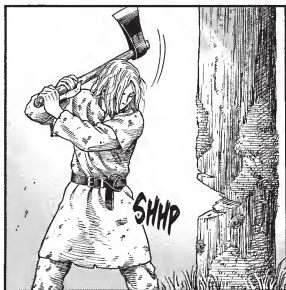




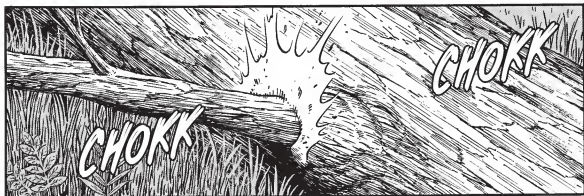
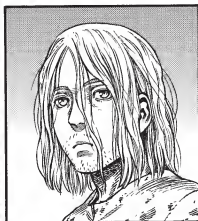
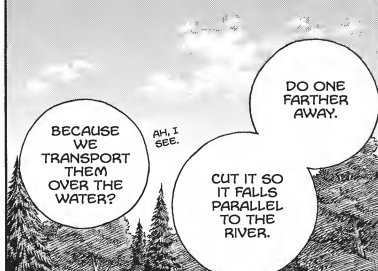


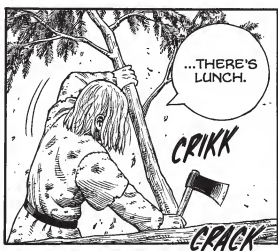
MEANING,
THERE'S A
LOT LEFT
TO GO?

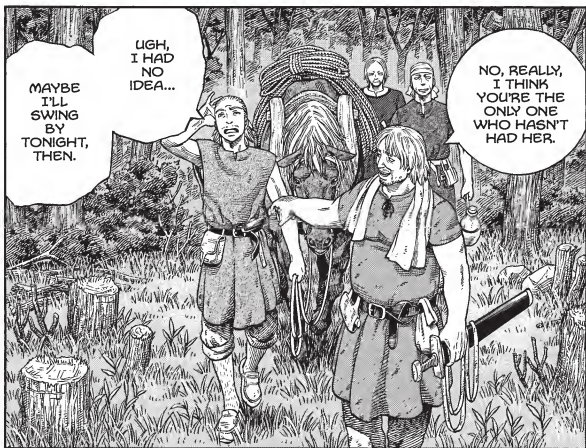
YEP.

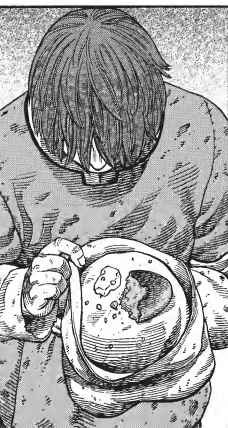


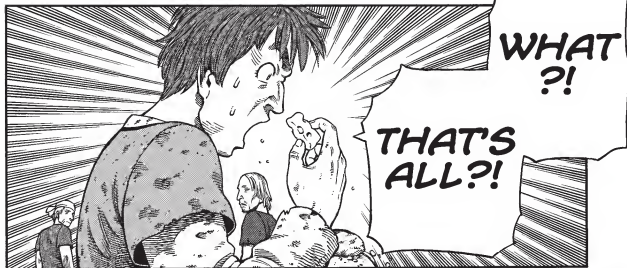


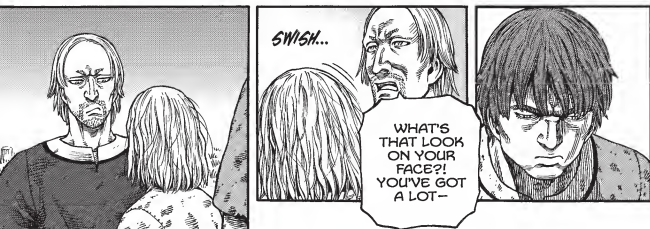
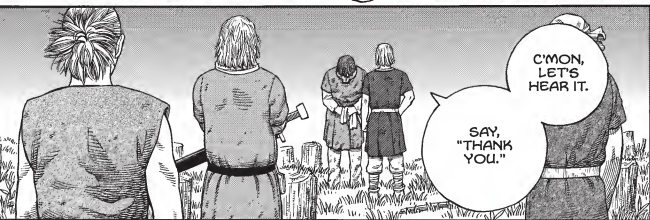


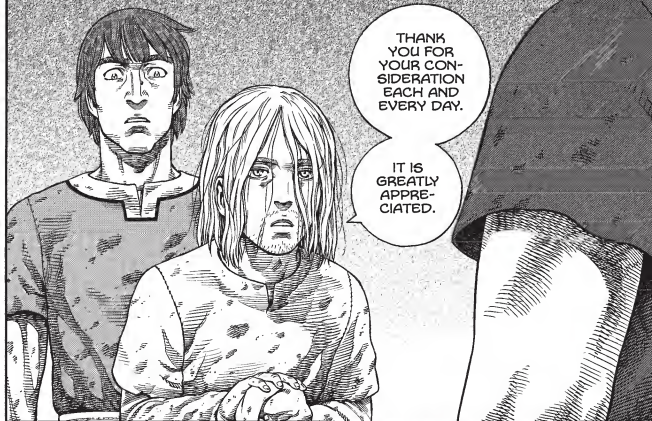


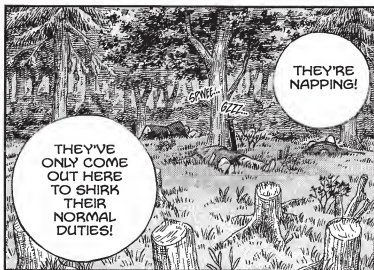








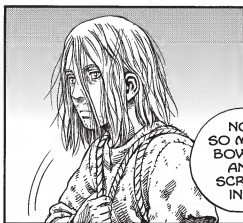






I'LL HAVE
TO SPEAK
WITH
MASTER
ABOUT
THIS.

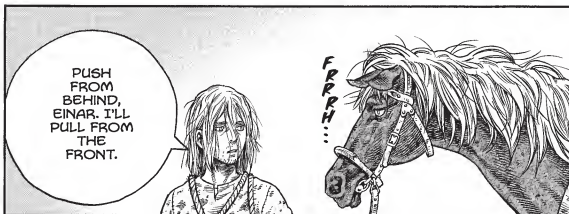
AND THAT
OBVIOUS
HARASS-
MENT! WELL,
THEY'VE GOT
MY GOAT.



NOT
SO MUCH
BOWING
AND
SCRAP-
ING.



AND YOU!
I KNOW
WE'RE
SLAVES, BUT
HOW ABOUT
A LITTLE
BACKBONE?



PUSH
FROM
BEHIND,
EINAR. I'LL
PULL FROM
THE
FRONT.

F
R
R
H
...



THAT OLD
NAG CAN'T
PULL IT
ALONE.

SHOULDN'T
WE CUT THIS
TREE DOWN
TO SIZE A
BIT FIRST?

ONCE
IT'S TO
THE RIVER,
WE'LL
MAKE A
RAFT.



HE SELLS
THE CEDARS
AS LUMBER.
WE CAN'T
CUT THEM
SMALLER.

THE
TREE IS
MASTER'S.

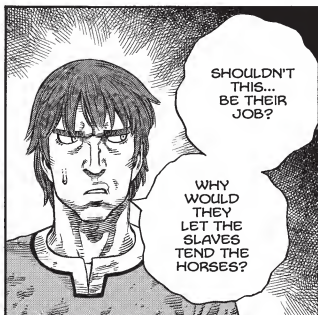


YOU
DONE?

HERE
WE
GO.

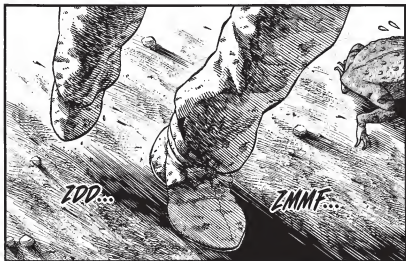
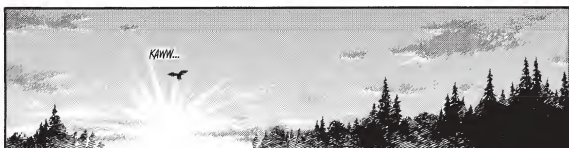
OH, OF
COURSE!
THAT'S
WHY THEY
ONLY
BROUGHT
THE ONE
OLD
HORSE.

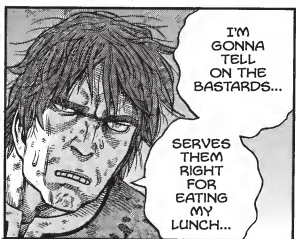
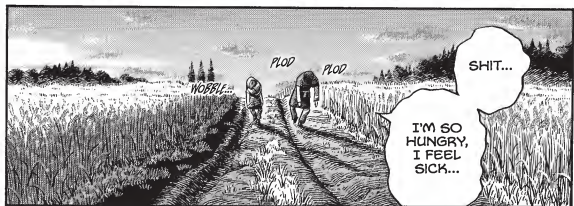
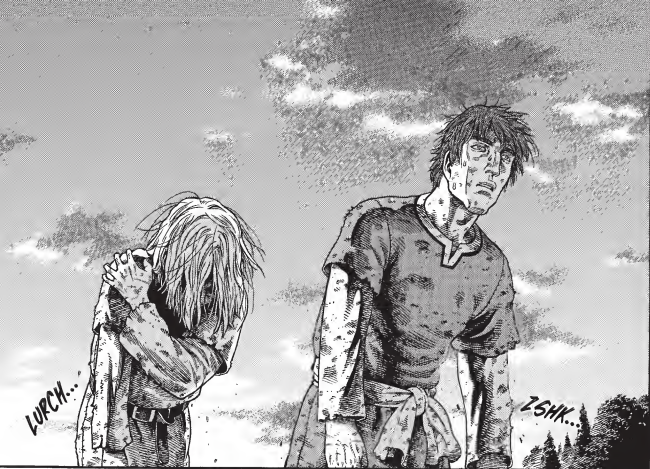
SO WE
CAN'T RIDE
IT AWAY TO
FREEDOM...

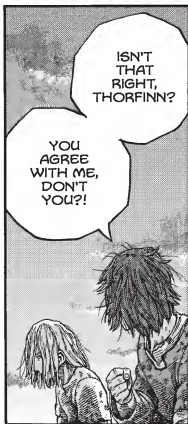
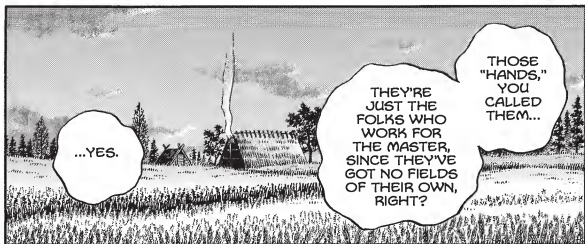


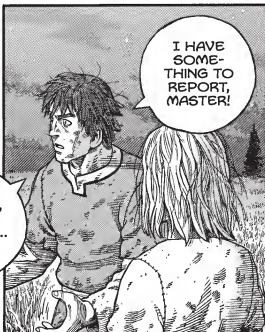
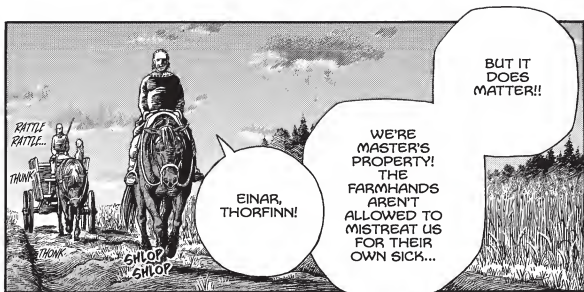
SHOULDN'T
THIS...
BE THEIR
JOB?

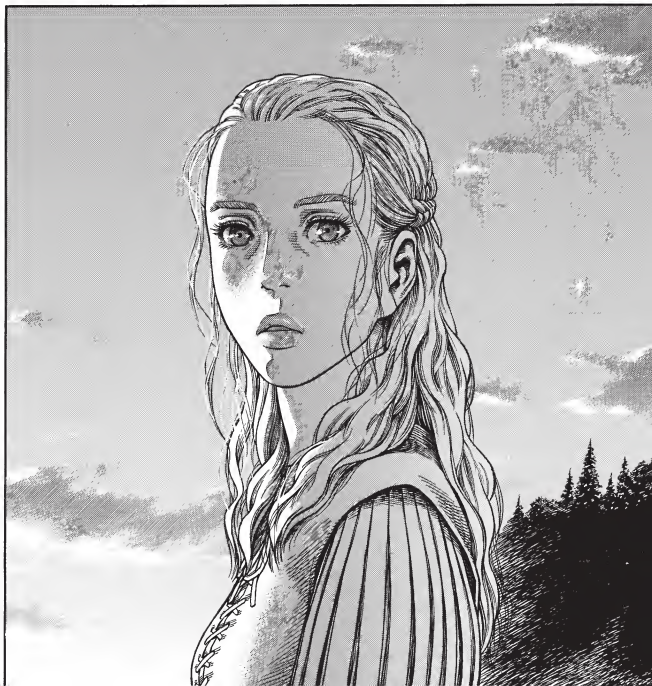
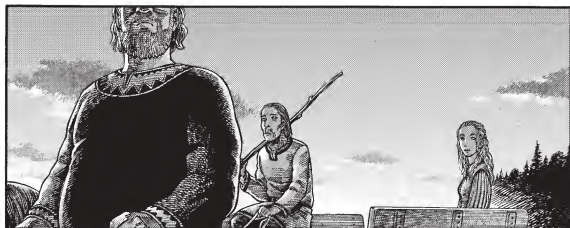
WHY
WOULD
THEY
LET THE
SLAVES
TEND THE
HORSES?

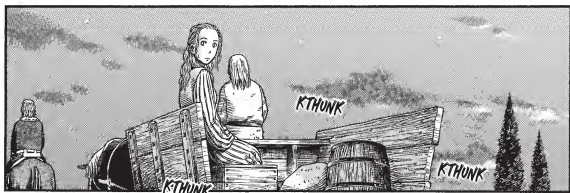
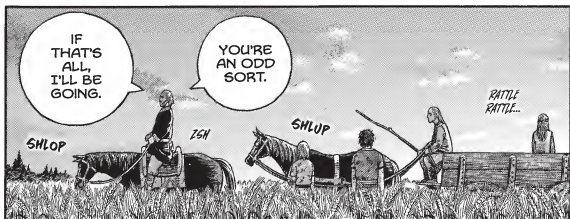
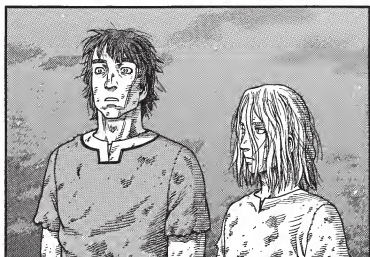
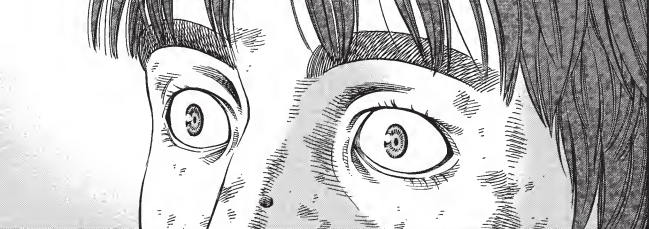


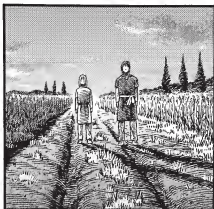
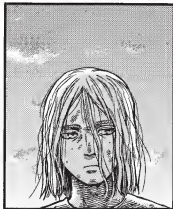












THORFINN'S HOME VILLAGE

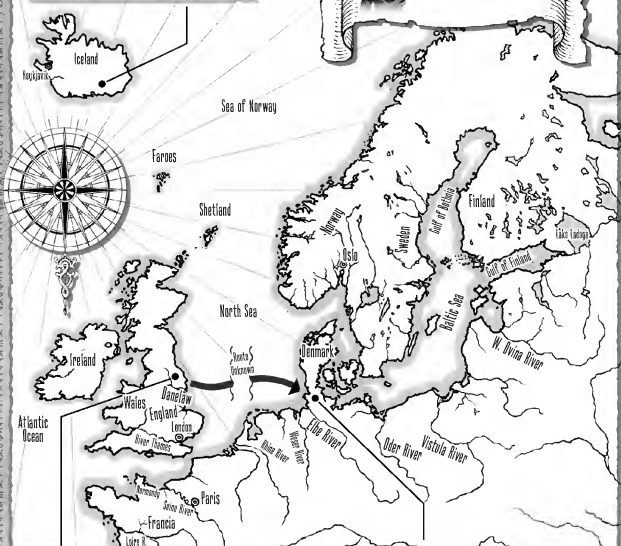
The peaceful, remote village where Thorfinn grew up with his father, Thors.

THORS



VINLAND SAGA MAP

THORFINN'S TRAVELS



YORK

Main base of the Danish forces, where King Sweyn keeps his hall. The center of commerce in Northern England.



ASKELADD



SWEYN



CANUTE THORKELL



SOUTHERN JUTLAND

A gentle land close to the sea, where Ketil the farmer owns a wide tract of farmland.



THORFINN



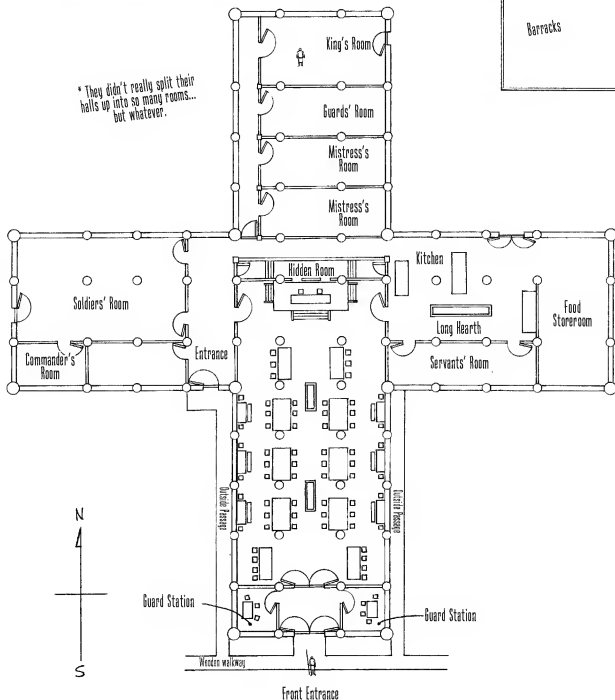
EINAR

SUPPLEMENTAL
DESIGNS

KING SWEYN'S HALL

Barracks

* They didn't really split their
halls up into so many rooms...
but whatever.



I keep trying to quit smoking, but it's not going well. I've been smoking for well over a decade now, so it's a fully ingrained habit. It has nothing to do with taste anymore. But given that we continue to transition to a non-smoking society, there might come a day when I can't smoke a cigarette, even if I want to. What if the world is totally smoke-free in the future, and they see old footage of me and think, "Gross! Did people in the past actually suck that smoke into their lungs? That's so stupid! Why would they do that?" Every era seems to have things that are destined to die out within that time. And the people of that era are always unable to objectively assess their own times. And yet here I am today, lighting up another historical relic. PUFF!

**MAKOTO
YUKIMURA**



**VINLAND
SAGA**

Translation Notes

Aegir, page 64

The Norse god of the sea. He was considered something of a party animal, and loved to throw lavish feasts for the rest of the gods. Thus, he could also be considered the god of drinking.

Askeladd, page 128

In Norwegian folk tales, Askeladden, or “Ashen Lad,” is a clever and resourceful hero who shares many traits with the trickster god Loki. In the tales, he often outwits or tricks his opponents into doing his bidding. Askeladden is an example of a folk hero who succeeds not through strength or bravery, but creativity and quick thinking. Many of the tales hold that Askeladden is the youngest of three brothers, and must use his quick wits to get ahead in life, which is often conflated with the Norwegian historical position, overlooked by more powerful and wealthy Scandinavian cultures.



Jorvik, page 157

The Norse name for the town of York, particularly during their rule over the Northumbria region in the 9th and 10th centuries. Some places within York of certain historical value still bear the name, such as the popular Jorvik Viking Centre museum.

Karlsefni, page 190

The character of Thorfinn is loosely based upon a real-life explorer named Thorfinn Karlsefni, whose attempts to reach the New World using Leif Ericson's routes were recounted in a number of Scandinavian sagas. The



name “Karlsefni” was not a surname, but an Icelandic epithet that others gave to Thorfinn. Translations of the name vary, from “the makings of a man” to “auspicious boy” to “a real man.” In any case, they seem to suggest that he was viewed as likely to achieve great things.

Lucius Artorius Castus, page 282

The name of a Roman general who was active in Britannia (the Roman colony on the British isles) in the 2nd or 3rd century AD. Though only a few historical records remain of him, some modern scholars have posited that he is the basis for the later legend of King Arthur.

Hávamál, page 353

A poem found within the Poetic Edda, a collection of Old Norse poems. The title translates to “sayings of the high one,” and the contents of the poem are attributed to Odin. The Japanese translation, when not simply titled “Hávamál,” is known as “the song of Odin” or “the proverbs of Odin.” Hávamál is a gnomic poem, meaning that its verses are meant to serve as lessons or advice on customary topics, such as the laws of hospitality for both guest and host.



Karl, page 405

The Viking social class of free men, greater than thralls (slaves) but lower than noble jarls: in short, the common man. The Old English form of the word was “churl,” which eventually evolved into its modern pejorative meaning: one who is so common as to be low class or boorish.

For Our Farewell Is Near Part 4

By Makoto Yukimura

Introduction

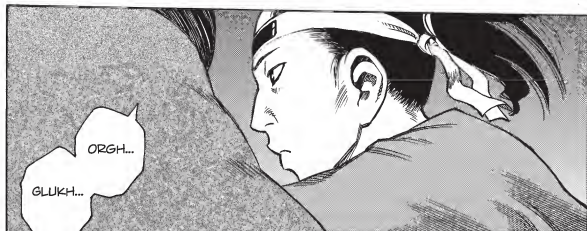
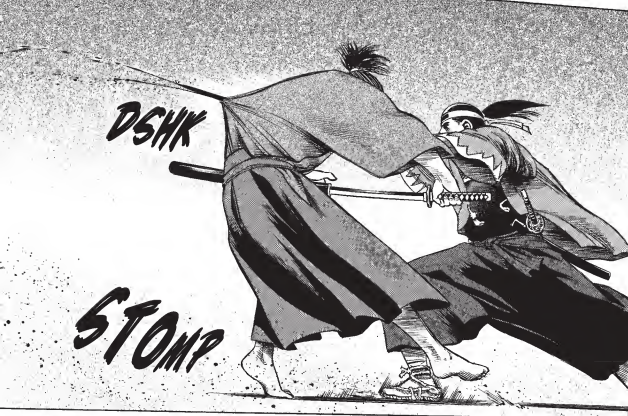
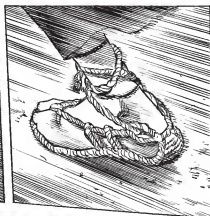
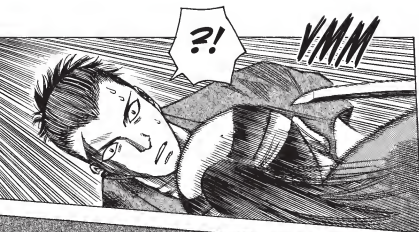
At the end of the Edo Period, the arrival of the “black ships” from abroad spelled the end of 260 years of isolation enforced by the shogunate. In response to the shogunate’s desire to open the country’s borders, disgruntled regional forces loyal to the emperor, such as the Choshu Domain, planned a rebellion. The imperial loyalists massed in Kyoto, where the emperor lived, growing increasingly bold until the city became, in effect, a lawless area. In an effort to restore order, the shogunate recruited ronin (masterless samurai) in Edo (Tokyo) and sent them to Kyoto.

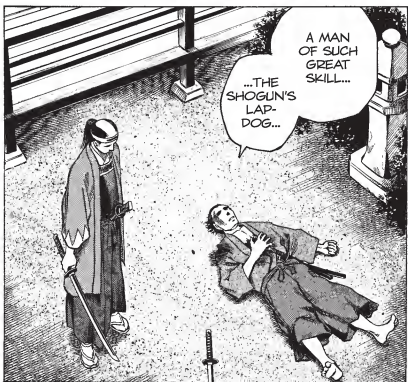
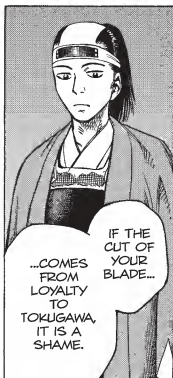
Among these men were Kondo Isami and Okita Soji, students at the Shieikan dojo in Tama. Upon reaching Kyoto, they formed the “Shinsengumi” under the orders of the daimyo of Aizu Domain, who had been charged with keeping the peace in the city. But, unable to reverse the tide of history, the shogunate lost power, and the Shinsengumi were defeated at the Battle of Toba-Fushimi. In 1868, Kondo and Okita had fled to Edo. Okita’s body was already wracked with tuberculosis at this time.

Note:

This story first appeared in 2004 in Kodansha’s Evening magazine. This is the first time it has been published in English.







YOU
CHOSHU
MEN,
KONDO-
SAN'S
MEN...

COFF

YOU
MAKE
MUCH
OF NO-
THING.



HAPPEN-
STANCE
SAW ME
BORN
INTO A
SAMURAI
FAMILY.
HAPPEN-
STANCE
GIFTED
ME A
WAY
WITH
THE
SWORD.



THE
SHOGUN
AND THE
EMPEROR
MEAN
NOTHING
TO ME.

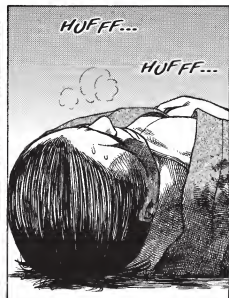
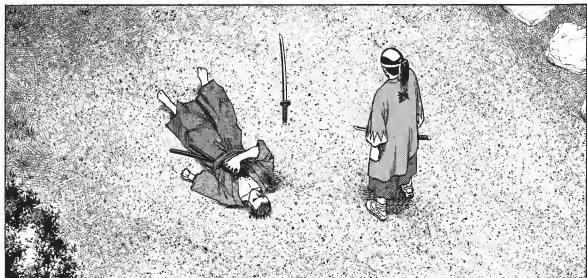
THEY HIDE
BEHIND LOGIC,
CLAIMING
FEALTY
TO THE
GOVERNMENT
OR THE
IMPERIAL
COURT...

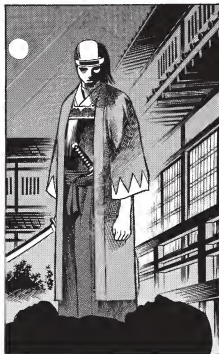
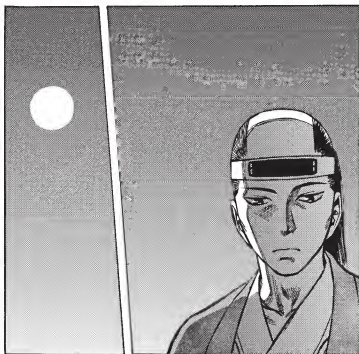
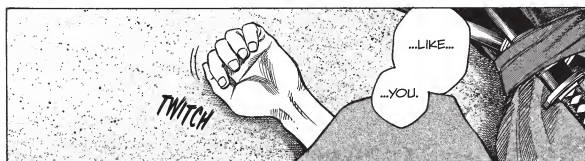
...BUT
SUPPOSE
THEY JUST
WANT THE
CHANCE TO
KILL?

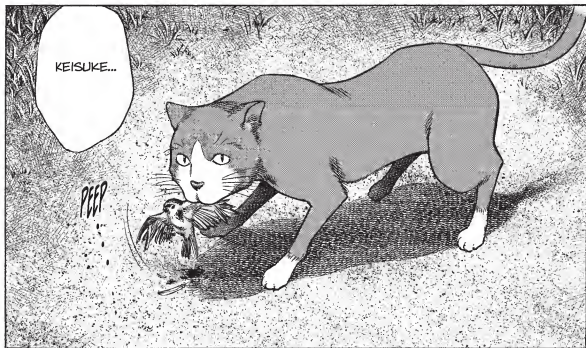
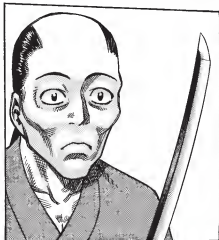
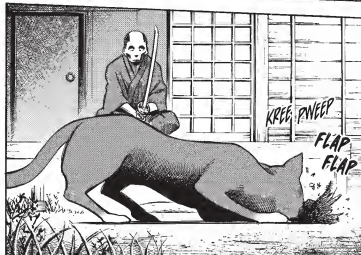
EVERY-
ONE'S
GONE
MAD.

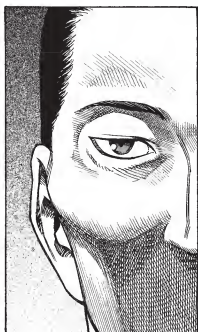
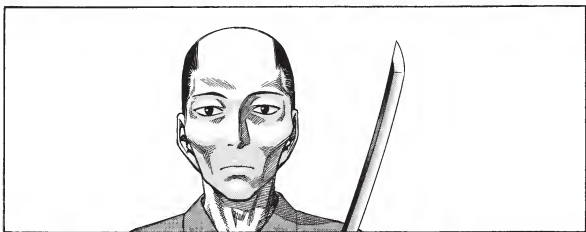
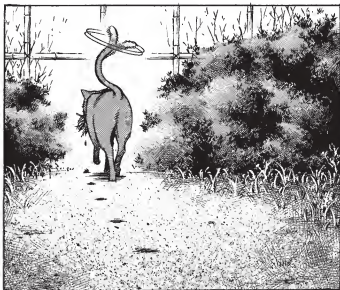
THEY CAN'T
WAIT TO
CUT EACH
OTHER TO
PIECES, EVEN
THOUGH
THEY BARELY
KNOW WHAT
TO DO WITH
THEIR
WEAPONS.

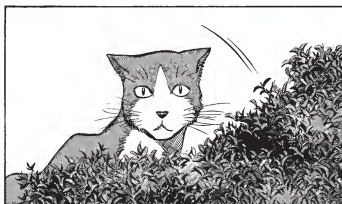
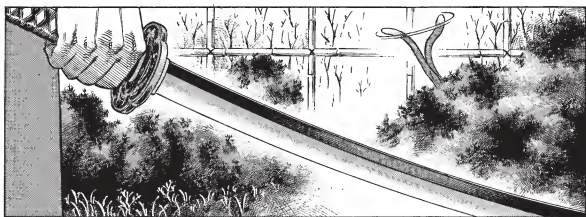












ASK YUKIMURA

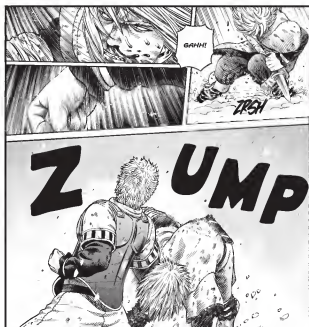
This exclusive Q&A with series creator Makoto Yukimura appears only in the U.S. edition of “Vinland Saga.” Future volumes will include them, too, so if you have a question you’d like to ask Mr. Yukimura, please send it to kodanshacomics@randomhouse.com, or to:

Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th floor
New York, NY 10016

Kodansha Comics: *Your action scenes often involve a lot of characters and background details. How difficult is it to keep track of where everyone is standing from page to page? Also, are there any artists or filmmakers whose action sequences you admire?*

Makoto Yukimura: These things happen inside my own head, so it’s not that difficult. What I feel is difficult is getting the relative positions and emotional states of the characters that I have in my head across to the reader without causing misunderstandings or stress. I take care to make these things as clear as I possibly can.

As for action scenes, there are countless wonderful action artists who are far beyond my level, but if I had to name one, it would be Yukito Kishiro, artist of the Japanese manga series *Gunnm*.^{*} When it comes to imagination, style, impact, composition, or anything else, he is one of the absolute masters of the Japanese manga world.



^{*} Published in the United States as *Battle Angel Alita*.

KC: *What is a typical day of work like for you? When do you wake up and go to sleep? Do you have a set schedule for different tasks, or do you work on a more improvised schedule?*

Yukimura: Normally, my three staff members arrive at 10 in the morning and begin drawing. With breaks for lunch and dinner, I work with my staff until 10 at night. Most of the time, I go to sleep between 2 and 3 in the morning.

Before drawing comes the work of creating the story. This is something I tackle by myself, so the schedule is extremely flexible.

Unlike drawing work, where as long as you move your hand you're making progress, you need to be patient until good ideas come. So I do other work, like non-Vinland Saga illustrations, while I wait.

I draw one chapter each month, which is 30 pages, give or take.

KC: *There is a lot of focus on father-son relationships in Vinland Saga, such as between Thors and Thorfinn, Sveyn and Canute, and even Thorfinn and his substitute father figure, Askeladd. What interests you about the father-son relationship in particular?*

In my personal experience, in my relationship with my own father, I don't think there were any dramatic events that might have had an influence on the manga. I probably drew fathers and sons in the manga so frequently because the motif was such an appropriate expression of the themes. It was a half-unconscious choice. Before I knew it, there were lots of fathers





and sons appearing in the story. Even I was a little surprised.

If there was one thing I would mention about me and my own father, it would be about the time I left home to become a manga artist. This was 15 years ago, when I was 22 years old.

My father and mother both hoped that I would

find a stable job after I left university, but I wanted to become a manga artist. It was a gamble, the kind of job where whether you can make a living depends on luck. I thought my father, a civil servant, would be against it.

But my father said, “If there’s something you want to do, then do it,” and sent me on my way. He even said, “You’ll probably need this,” put a not insignificant amount of money in an envelope, and made me take it. I was shocked.

My father didn’t force me into anything. I’m sure he had lots of things he wanted to say to me, and lots of concerns about me, but he basically left me alone. It’s not a dramatic story, but I am grateful that I had this relationship with my father where nothing in particular happened.

**SEE YOU IN BOOK FIVE,
COMING OCTOBER 2014!**

Vinland Saga volume 4 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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Published in the United States by Kodansha Comics, an imprint of
Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

Publication rights for this English edition arranged through
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

First published in Japan in 2009 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo, as
Vinland Saga, volumes 7 and 8.

ISBN 978-1-61262-423-5

Printed in the United States of America.

www.kodanshacomics.com

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Translation: Stephen Paul
Lettering: Scott O. Brown
Editing: Ben Applegate
Kodansha Comics edition cover & endpaper design: Phil Balsman

Special thanks to Roderick Dale of the Centre for the Study of the Viking Age at the University of Nottingham for his assistance with the production of this book.

